

# FACTS about Connecticut Women

## 1999 Update to *Facts About the Status of Women in Connecticut*

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# FACTS about Connecticut Women

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# FACTS about Connecticut Women

## Introduction

**T**his addendum is to update and supplement *Facts About the Status of Women in Connecticut* published in 1996, 1997 and 1998 by the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women. The purpose of these publications is to provide reliable information regarding the status of Connecticut women to legislators, other policy makers and the general public. When possible, this 1999 edition contains information regarding *older women*.

The data we present here are not meant to be exhaustive or complete. There are many types of information or social indicators that we have not included; this is meant to be a useful sampler of information.

It is impossible to fully describe human lives with charts and tables. However, good information does allow us to think more clearly about the patterns and trends that shape and sometimes limit people's lives. We hope that policy-makers and members of the public will use the data in this book as a reference, and will call upon the staff of the PCSW to provide additional information when it is needed to analyze social issues that affect the status of women.

introduction

# FACTS about Connecticut Women

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## Chapter One

### General Demographics

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# FACTS about Connecticut Women

## general demographics

### General Demographics

In 1996, there were nearly 1.7 million women in Connecticut. According to the 1996 *Connecticut Registration Report* of the Connecticut Department of Public Health, the estimated population of Connecticut as of July 1, 1996 was 3,274,238, which is 12,878 (0.4%) lower than the July 1, 1990 census count. Of the total population 48.6% are males and 51.4% are females. In the age groups from 0 through 29 years, the number of males exceeded that of females. In all subsequent 5-year age cohorts, females exceeded males. By ages 75 - 79, 80 - 84, and 85+ years, females outnumbered males by factors of 1.5, 1.8, and 2.7 respectively.<sup>1</sup>

Connecticut has the 28th largest population among all the states in the United States. Nationally, we rank 27th in the number of women in the 50 to 60 age category; 26th age 60 to 64; 25th age 65 to 74; and 23rd age 75 and over.<sup>2</sup>

Life expectancy in the United States has hit a new high. Among the total population, the average American could expect to live to 76.1 years as of 1996--up from 75.8 as of 1995. Among whites, life expectancy for American men is now 73.8 years and 79.6 years for women. Black men live an average of 66.1 years, and black women live 74.2 years.<sup>3</sup>

As the "baby-boom" generation (those born between 1946 and 1964) starts reaching retirement age in 2011, the size of the elderly population (ages 65 and over) is projected to increase substantially in all states. Compared with the United States as a whole, Connecticut will continue to have a slightly larger proportion of women over age 65 and a higher ratio of women to men.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> State of Connecticut One Hundred and Forty-ninth Registration Report 1996, *CT Dept. of Public Health*

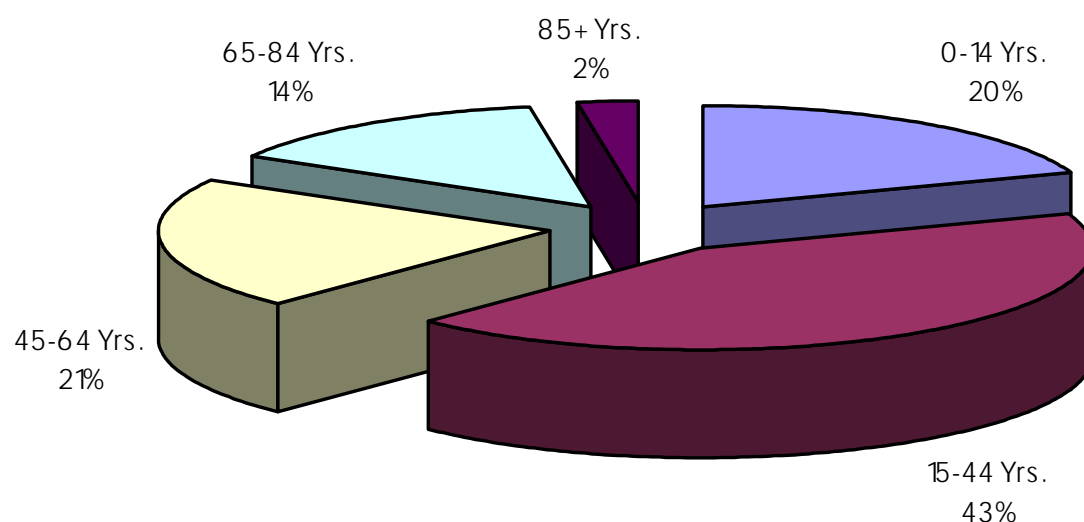
<sup>2</sup> The Status of Women in Connecticut 1998, *Institute for Women's Policy Research*, Washington, D.C.

<sup>3</sup> Sheryl Gay Stolberg, "U.S. Life Expectancy Hits New High," *New York Times*, September 12, 1997.

<sup>4</sup> The Status of Women in Connecticut 1998, *Institute for Women's Policy Research*, Washington, D.C.

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## Age Distribution of CT Women, 1996

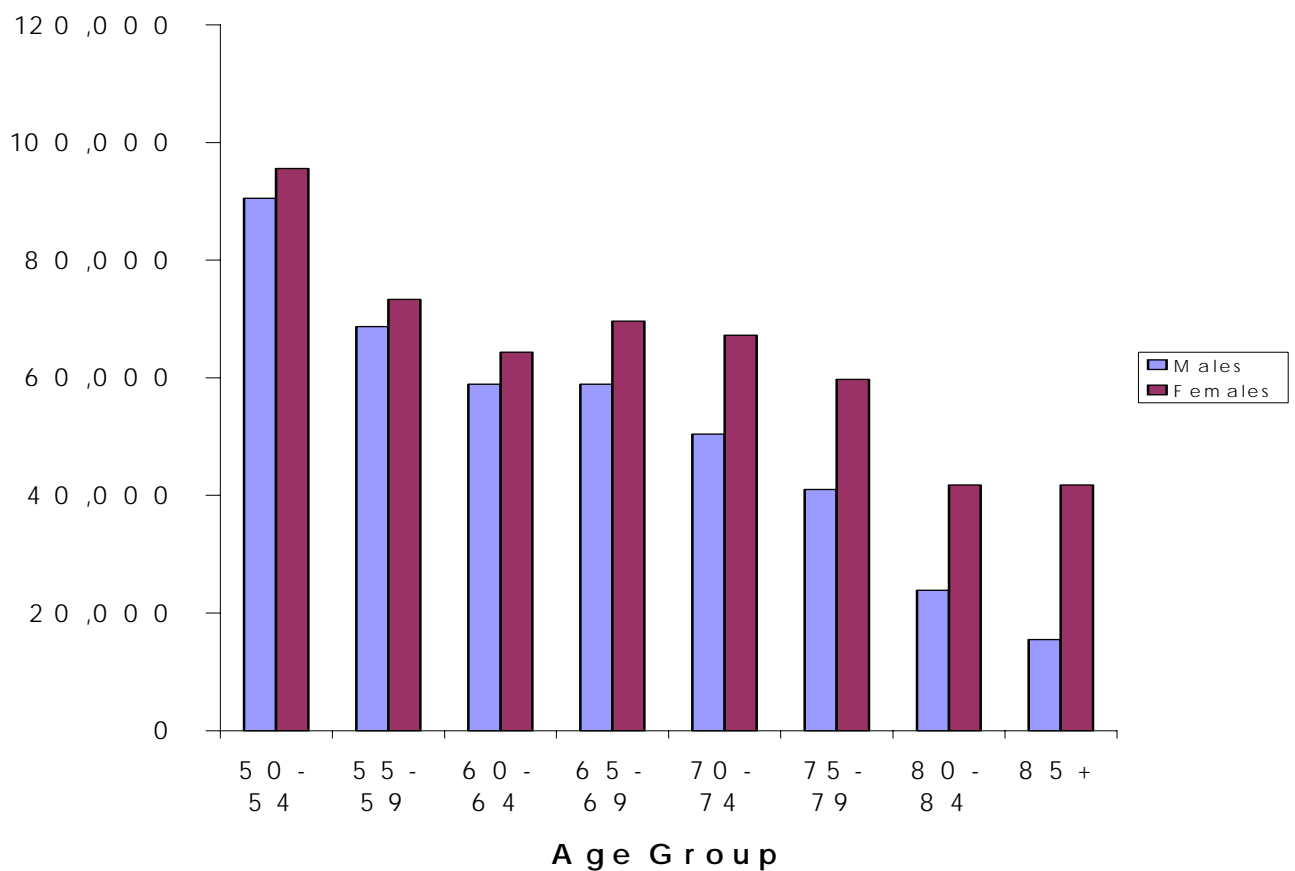


Source: *State Profiles on Women's Health*, The Jacobs Institute of Women's Health 1998

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## CT Population by Age (55 and over) and Sex, 1996



Source: 1996 Connecticut Registration Report, CT Department of Public Health

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## Divorce

Nationally in 1979, divorced women were only 5% of all women between the ages of 45 and 64. By 1992, their ranks had nearly tripled to 14% of that age group. The same pattern can be observed for women age 65 and older. Divorced women were 2% of all women age 65 and older in 1970. By 1992, 6% of all older women were divorced.<sup>1</sup>

Immediately following their divorces, women age 50 and older averaged a 39% decline in their adjusted median incomes (adjusted for household size and composition), whereas their male counterparts experienced an average drop of only 14%. Divorced women younger than age 50 experienced a similar drop (36%) in their median adjusted incomes in the short run, yet men that age actually experienced a small increase (4%) in their adjusted incomes following divorce.<sup>2</sup>

In Connecticut there were 11,189 divorces in 1996, or more than one for every two marriages, for a divorce rate of 6.8 persons per 1,000 population. This represented an increase in both number and rate relative to 1995 (10,656 divorces, 6.5 per 1,000), and was the first increase since 1992.<sup>3</sup>

CT Divorces -- A Historical Perspective		
	1896	1996
Number	449	11,189
Rate (persons per 1,000 population)	1.1	6.8

Source: *One Hundred and Forty-ninth Registration Report of Births, Marriages, Divorces and Deaths for the Year Ending December 31, 1996*, CT Department of Public Health

<sup>1</sup> Compare, tabulations from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Marital Status and Living Arrangements*, Table 1, p. 1 (March 1992), with unpublished data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, *1970 Current Population Survey* (March 1970) as reported in *Midlife and Older Women, A Financial Snapshot*, AARP Fact Sheet 1994

<sup>2</sup> Burkhauser, R.V. and Duncan, G.J., United States Public Policy and the Elderly: The Disproportionate Risk to the Well-Being of Women," Vol. 4, *Journal of Population Economics*, Table 5, p. 225 (1991).

<sup>3</sup> *One Hundred and Forty-ninth Registration Report of Births, Marriages, Divorces and Deaths for the Year Ending December 31, 1996*, CT Department of Public Health.

# FACTS about Connecticut Women

## general demographics

### Marriages

There were 21,927 marriages in Connecticut in 1996. This was 685 (3%) fewer than in 1995, and was the lowest number registered in Connecticut since 1966. The number of marriages in Connecticut has declined 21.3% since it peaked at 27,892 in 1988. The 1996 total represents a marriage rate of 13.4 persons per 1,000 population, down from 13.8 in 1995. The Connecticut marriage rate has been on a general decline since 1984, when it reached 17.2 per 1,000, and in 1996 reached its lowest value since 1938.<sup>1</sup>

Seven towns each registered more than 500 marriages in 1996. They were Hartford (1,223), New Haven (1,013), Bridgeport (862), Stamford (838), Waterbury (652), Norwalk (550), and Danbury (510). The most marriages were registered in Hartford, and none were registered in the town of North Stonington for the second year in a row.<sup>2</sup>

CT Marriages -- A Historical Perspective		
	1896	1996
Number	6,714	21,927
Rate (persons per 1,000 population)	15.6	13.4

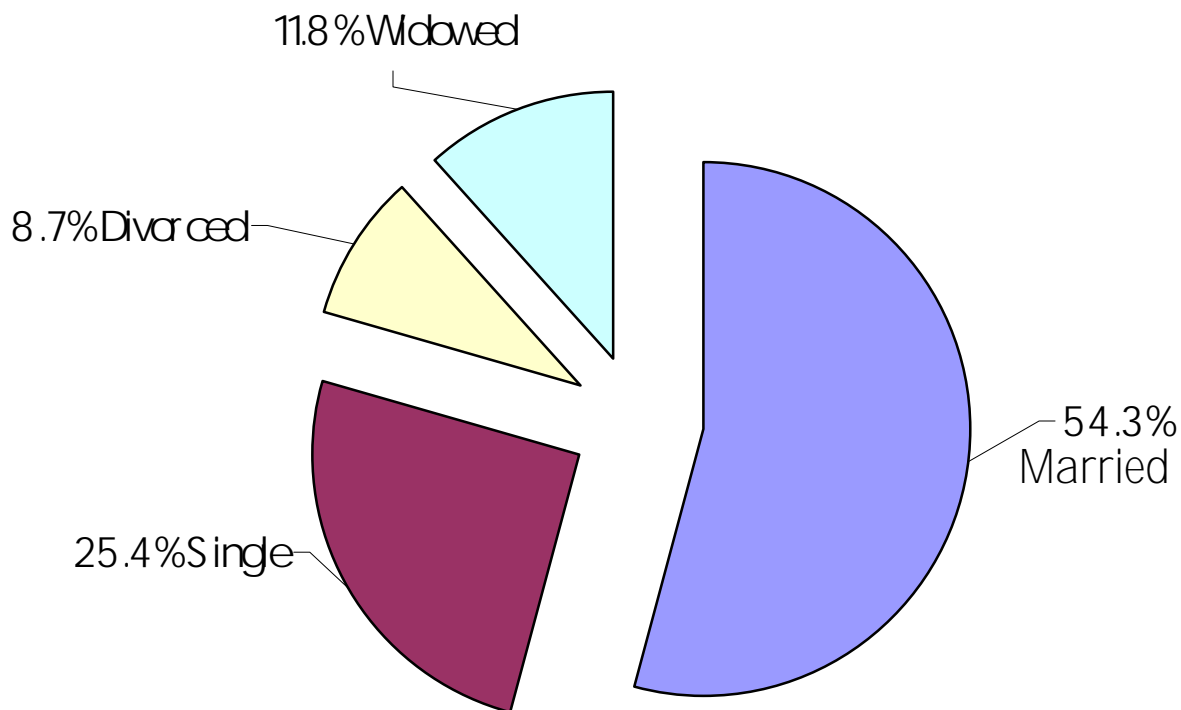
Source: *One Hundred and Forty-ninth Registration Report of Births, Marriages, Divorces and Deaths for the Year Ending December 31, 1996*, CT Department of Public Health

<sup>1</sup> *One Hundred and Forty-ninth Registration Report of Births, Marriages, Divorces and Deaths for the Year Ending December 31, 1996*, CT Department of Public Health.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

# FACTS about Connecticut Women

## Marital Status of CT Women - 1993



Source: Population Reference Bureau 1993, Compiled by the Institute for Women's Policy Research, Wash. D.C. in the publication *The Status of Women in CT, 1998*

# FACTS about Connecticut Women

## Living Arrangements of Older Women

Older women are much more likely than older men to live alone. In 1992, 42% of all women age 65 and older lived alone compared to only 16% of men that age (national figures).<sup>1</sup>

Women's chances of living alone increase with age: about one-third (34%) of women age 65 to 74 and more than half (52%) of women age 75 and older lived alone in 1992.<sup>2</sup> More than one-fourth (27%) of all older women who lived alone in 1992 were poor, and another 14% were near-poor.<sup>3</sup>

In 1990, over two-thirds (67%) of all nursing home residents were women age 65 and older, and three-fourths (75%) of all nursing home residents age 65 and older were women (national).<sup>4</sup>

Women age 65 and over living alone account for 76% of all older tenants living in public housing and federally subsidized private housing.<sup>5</sup> In addition, women constitute 81% of all residents living in Section 202 housing (federally assisted housing projects with support services primarily for low-income elderly tenants).<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P20-468, *Marital Status and Living Arrangements: March 1992*, Table 7, p. 47 (December 1992) as reported in *Midlife and Older Women, A Financial Snapshot*, AARP Fact Sheet 1994.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Table 7, pp. 45-47

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P60-185, *Poverty in the United States: 1992*, Table 6, p.16 (September 1993) as reported in *Midlife and Older Women, A Financial Snapshot*, AARP Fact Sheet 1994.

<sup>4</sup> Taueber, Cynthia, U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Nursing Home Population: 1990* (Listings CPH-L-137) Table 2, p. 2 (June 1993) as reported in *Midlife and Older Women, A Financial Snapshot*, AARP Fact Sheet 1994.

<sup>5</sup> Older Women's League, *Room for Improvement: The Lack of Affordable, Adaptable and Accessible Housing for Midlife and Older Women*, 1993 Mother's Day Report, p. 9 (May 1993) as reported in *Midlife and Older Women, A Financial Snapshot*, AARP Fact Sheet 1994.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

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## Homelessness

**D**uring the Census Bureau's national one-night count of people in shelters and visible on the street for the 1990 Census, women age 45 and older constituted about 4% of the total number of homeless persons counted.<sup>1</sup>

In Connecticut, the Coalition to End Homelessness reports that during the period October 1, 1996 to September 30, 1997, 15,508 different people used shelters including 1,493 families with over 2,800 children (children age 17 and under represented 17.9% of the population). The number of single adult women increased by 10% over the previous year.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Burt, Martha, et al., *The Homeless in the 1990 Decennial Census*, Draft Report (Sept. 9, 1993) as reported in *Midlife and Older Women, A Financial Snapshot*, AARP Fact Sheet 1994.

<sup>2</sup> *Who Is Homeless In Connecticut?* October 1, 1996 to September 30, 1997, CT Coalition to End Homelessness

# FACTS about Connecticut Women

## general demographics

### Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

The number of children in Connecticut who cannot live with their parents is increasing. Increasing numbers of these children are entering the foster care system. From September 1994 to June 1998, the number of foster children living with relatives grew by 63% (from 1,217 to 1,987). Many thousands of other children are living with relatives, often grandparents, who have been appointed their legal guardians by the Probate Courts. This number is estimated to be about 11,000 in Connecticut.<sup>1</sup>

Grandparents often live on fixed, limited incomes. Nearly all the Connecticut grandmother-only headed households have incomes under 300% of the federal poverty level (about 94%). By contrast, a third of the grandparent-headed households (with both grandparents present) have incomes greater than 300% of the federal poverty level. If the child they are raising is not in the custody of the Department of Children and Families (DCF), the grandparent can apply for TANF cash assistance. However, the benefit is only \$333 per month for the first child in care, and a \$50-\$100 per month for each additional child.<sup>2</sup>

Foster parents, by comparison, receive between \$622 -- \$708 per month per child (depending on the child's age) from the Department of Children and Families. Foster parents also have access to respite care and other supportive services.<sup>3</sup> If the grandparent is approved as a certified relative caregiver, the family receives the more realistic foster care rate. In addition, they receive the supportive services that include a clothing allowance, respite care, training and support services. However, as the Department of Children and Families has custody of the child, they have the final say on all important parenting decisions.<sup>4</sup>

The choice grandparents are forced to make are to give up care to the Department of Children and Families to get adequate financial support, or keep care and be unable to meet essential needs.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Grandparents Raising Children*, Advocates for Connecticut's Children and Youth, CT Voices for Children 1/99

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*   <sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*   <sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*   <sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

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## Chapter Two

## Economics

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# FACTS about Connecticut Women

## Economic Security and Poverty

**A**s women's responsibility for the economic well-being of their families grows, the continuing wage gap and women's prevalence in low-paid, female-dominated occupations impedes women's ability to ensure their families' financial security, particularly for single mothers.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Institute for Women's Policy Research, Wash. D.C. *The Status of Women in CT*, 1998

### Median Annual Income for Selected Family Types CT -- 1995

Single Females  
without children

Single Males  
without children

Source: The Status of Women in CT, Institute for Women's Policy Research, 1998



# FACTS about Connecticut Women

## Poverty and Near-Poverty

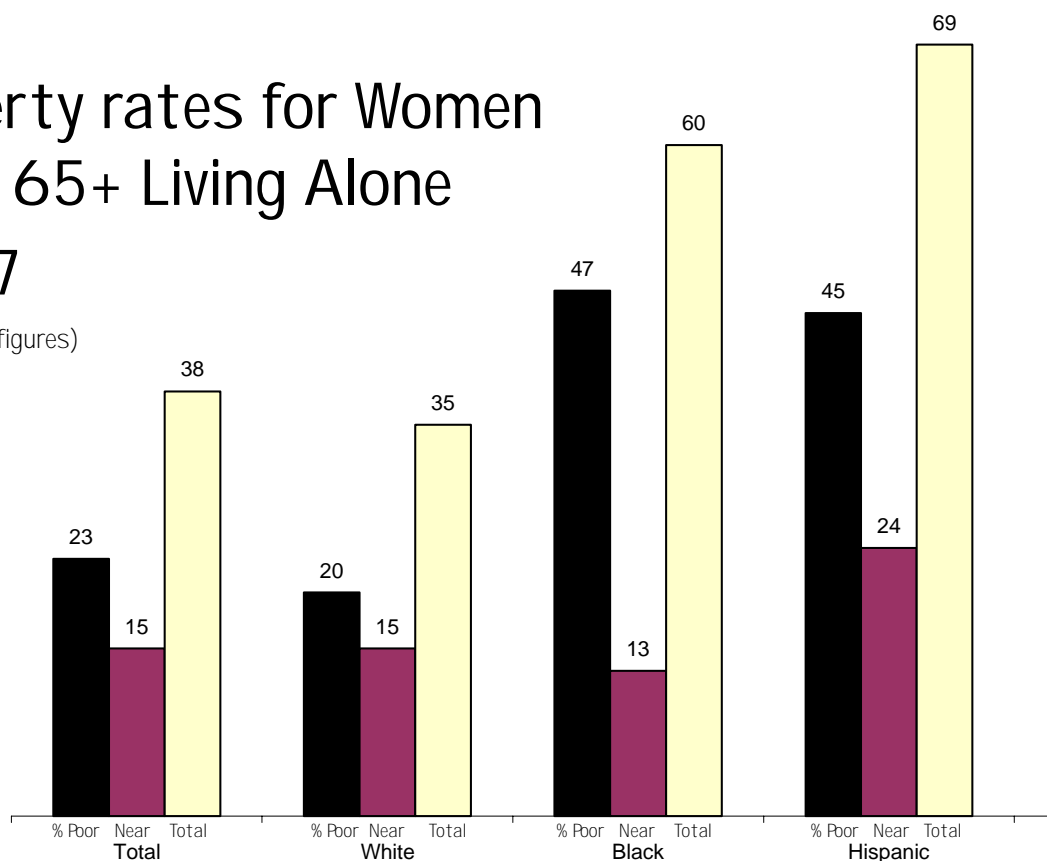
Nearly 40% of older women living alone were poor (23%) or near-poor (15%) in 1996, compared to about one-fourth of older men living alone (13% poor, 11% near-poor).<sup>1</sup> The incidence of poverty increases with age with about 11% of women age 65-74 having family incomes below the poverty level in 1996 and 16% among women age 75 and over.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1997 Current Population Survey (unpublished tabulations by AARP, 1997).

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

## Poverty rates for Women Age 65+ Living Alone 1997

(national figures)



Source: AARP Tabulations, 1997 Current Population Survey

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# FACTS about Connecticut Women

## Social Security

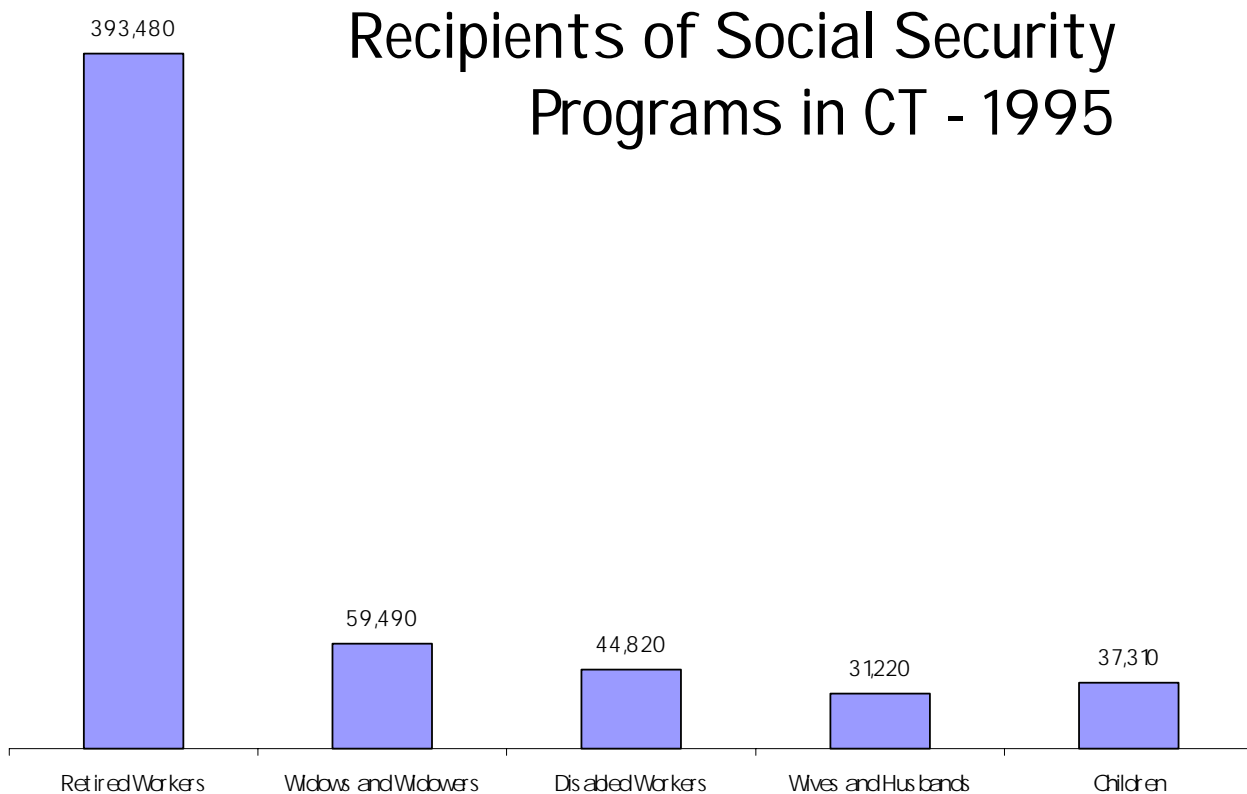
Women tend to earn less, live longer and have fewer years in the workforce than men. Often times they tend to take time out of the workforce to raise families. On average, women receive Social Security benefits that are only three-fourths the size of men's benefits. Additionally, women are about half as likely than men to have a pension, and even when they do, the amount is generally half as much. Without Social Security, more than 52% of all elderly women would be poor.<sup>1</sup>

In 1995 Social Security benefits were paid to 566,320 Connecticut residents.<sup>2</sup> Social Security beneficiaries represented 17.3% of the total population of the state. The following charts show to whom benefits were paid and the average amount of benefits monthly.

<sup>1</sup> Susan Grad, *Income of the Population 55 and Older*, 1994, p. 87 Table V.D.1 (Social Security Administration, 1996) as reported in AARP *Saving for Retirement: How Are Women Doing?* 1997.

<sup>2</sup> *The Social Security Program in Connecticut* a Factsheet from the Social Security Administration, Office of Research and Statistics, November 1996.

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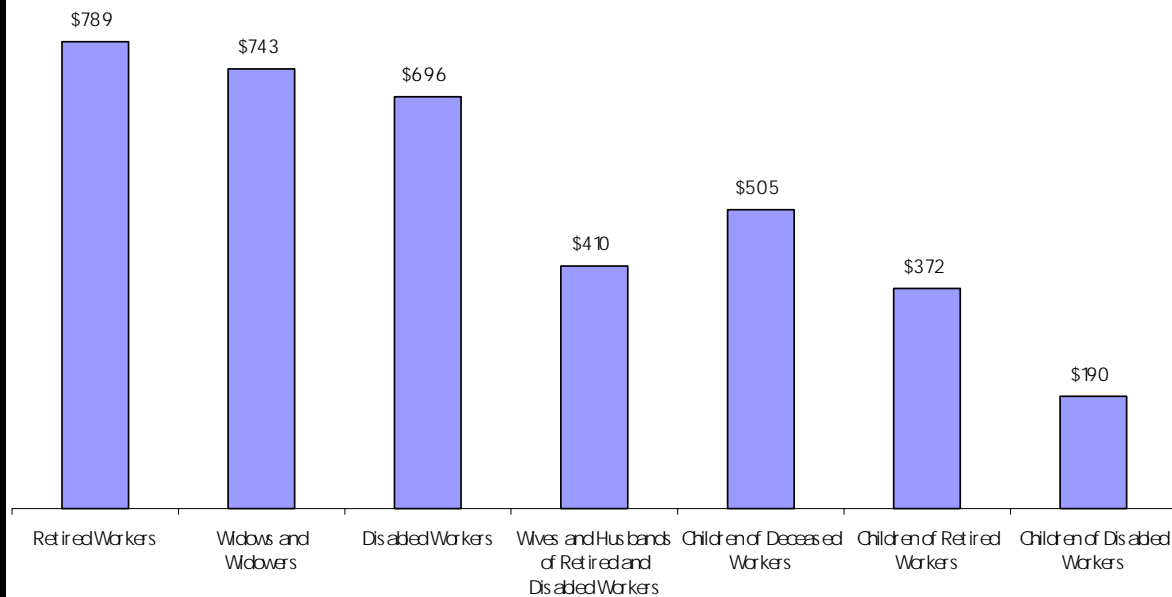


Source: Social Security Administration, Office of Research Evaluation and Statistics, November 1996

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## Average Amount of Monthly Social Security Benefits To Retired Workers and their Families in CT 1995



Source: Social Security Administration, Office of Research Evaluation and Statistics, November 1996

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# FACTS about Connecticut Women

## The Wage Gap

The wage gap in Connecticut is even greater than the national average with Connecticut women earning only 70.7% of what men in Connecticut earn. Women's median earnings in Connecticut are high compared to the United States because of the generally high standard and cost of living. However, their ratio in comparison to men's is quite low, ranking only 29th in the nation. The relatively high wages earned by Connecticut women mean that the pay gap between men and women in the state is more a matter of men earning significantly higher salaries rather than women earning lower salaries.<sup>1</sup>

The gap in earnings grows as women and men age. When women and men start out their work lives, between the ages of 25-29, women earn approximately 18% less than men of comparable ages do. By the time women and men are near the end of their work lives, between the ages of 60-64, women earn 43% less than comparably aged men.<sup>2</sup>

The life-long loss of earnings based on the wage gap is very large. For a woman whose earnings are approximately \$35,000 a year, a 25% wage gap adds up to \$350,000 in lost income over her working life. For a woman whose earnings are approximately \$50,000 a year, a 25% wage gap adds up to half a million dollars in lost income over her working life. The wage gap leads not only to lost earnings, but also to lower pension and other retirement benefits for women and a much higher risk of impoverishment for elderly women.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *The Status of Women in Connecticut*, Institute for Women's Policy Research, Washington, D.C., 1996

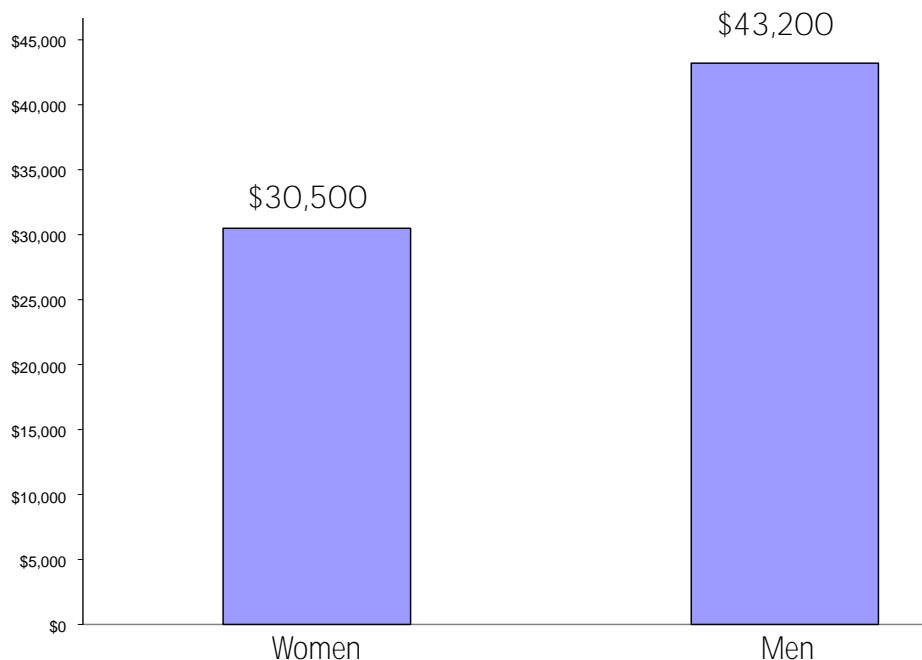
<sup>2</sup> Unpublished data from the Current Population Survey, Bureau of the Census, Table PINC-06A, March 1996, as reported in *The Wage Gap: Women's and Men's Earnings*, Institute for Women's Policy Research, 1996.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

# FACTS about Connecticut Women

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## Median Annual Earnings of Women and Men Employed Full-Time/Year-Round in CT 1995



Source: The Status of Women in Connecticut, Institute for Women's Policy Research, Washington, D.C., 1996

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## Chapter Three

### Women and Work

## chapter three

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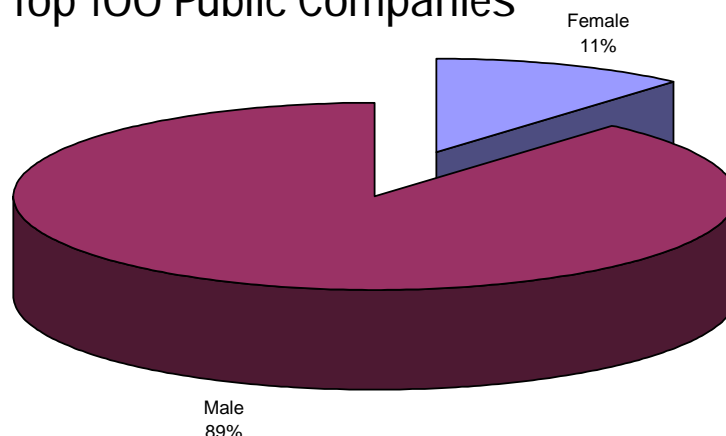
## womenandwork

### The Glass Ceiling In CT

In 1996, the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) examined the gender of officers at Connecticut's top 100 public companies. This analysis was taken from the Dun and Bradstreet's "Million Dollar Disc" report. Dun and Bradstreet defines officer as the key decision-makers or those in upper management positions. The listing of Connecticut's 100 largest public companies is reported by the *Hartford Courant* in June of each year. Our findings in 1996 were that only 6.4% of officers at Connecticut's Top 100 Public Companies were female, and 93.6% were male.

A similar analysis was conducted for 1998. Officer information was found for 99 of these firms. A total of 1,063 women and men were employed at the corporate-officer level by the 99 businesses reviewed. As many as 35 of the 99 businesses reviewed (35%) did not have any women at all in these management positions. However, the total representation of women officers increased to 11%. A total of 122 (11%) women held officer positions compared to 941 (89%) men.

### The Percentage of Female Officers at Connecticut's Top 100 Public Companies 1998



Source: Dun and Bradstreet's 1998 Regional Business Directory And Million Dollar Directory: Top 100 Obtained from the 6/1/98 *Hartford Courant*



# FACTS about Connecticut Women

## Sexual Harassment

The Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) has a statutory responsibility to enforce human rights laws prohibiting illegal discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations and credit transactions. It is the state enforcement agency responsible for the investigation of sexual harassment claims.

The following data describe the incidence of sexual harassment in Connecticut in terms of "cases" filed each year. A multi-year comparison is shown.

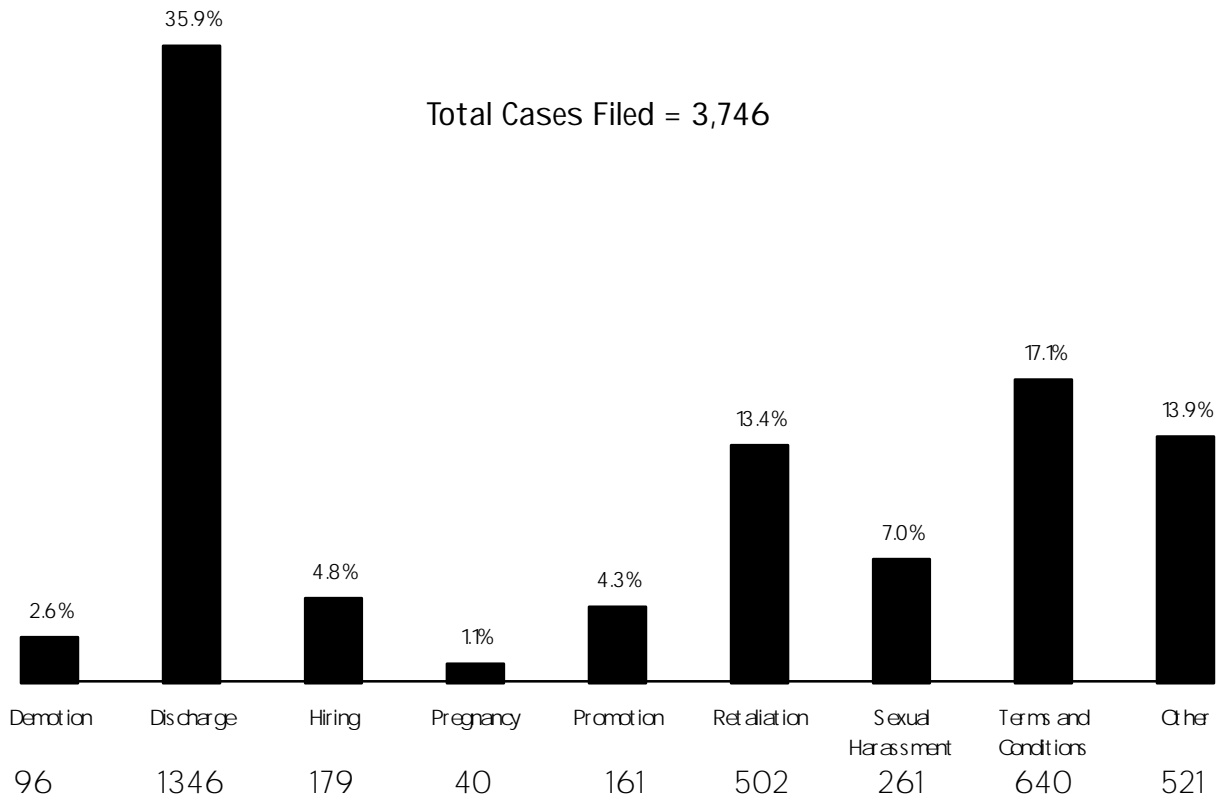
Sexual Harassment Cases Filed with the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities FY 93-94 to FY 96-97					
Year	Employment Cases Filed with CHRO	Sexual Harassment listed as one basis for a complaint	% of Employment Cases Filed Alleging Sexual Harassment	Sexual Harassment Cases Filed by Men	% of Sexual Harassment Cases Filed by Men
96-97	3,604	237	6.6%	26	11%
95-96	2,662	198	9%	14	7%
94-95	3,363	272	7%	33	12%
93-94	2,404	236	10%	17	7%

Source: Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities FY 1998

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## Issues In Employment Cases Filed with the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) FY 1998



Source: Complaint Demographics for FY 1998, Connecticut Human Rights and Opportunities

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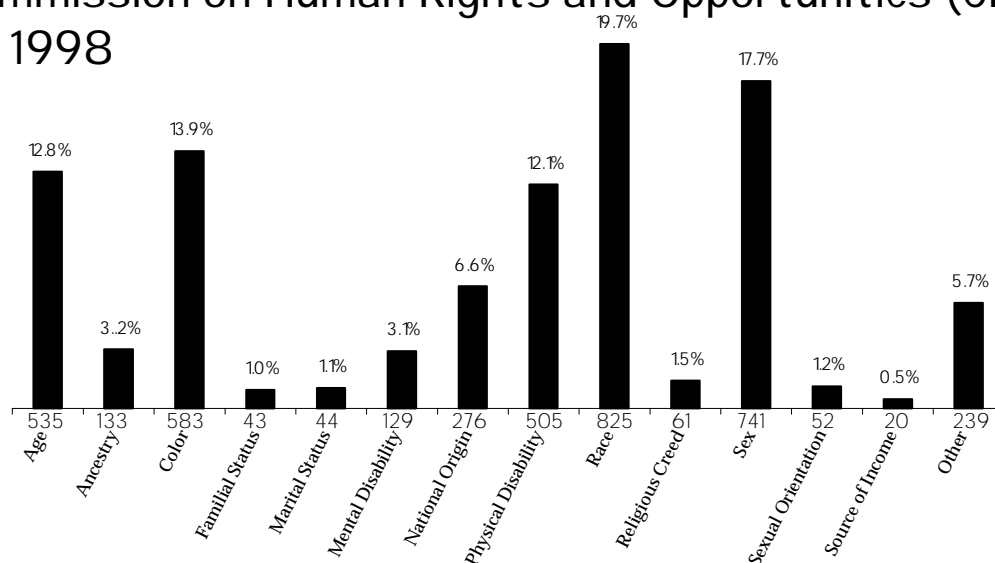
## Protected Class Basis Named in Complaints CHRO

Of the 2,457 new complaint affidavits the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities received in the fiscal year 1997-98, 2,254 or 95% were for employment discrimination. Race (825) and Sex (741) were again the two most common protected class bases named in all of the complaints filed in FY 1998. These were followed by Color (583), Age (535) and Physical Disability (499). CHRO awarded \$1,372,470 in compensation and relief to victims of illegal discrimination in FY 1998, a slight decrease from the \$1,422,430 awarded in FY 1997. \$1,303,517 (95%) was in back pay.<sup>1</sup>

*Note: the number of issues filed and the number of protected class basis filed exceed the total number of employment complaints and total complaints because more than a single basis and more than one type of discriminatory act may be alleged within a single case.*

<sup>1</sup> Complaint Demographics For FY 1998, Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities

## Protected Class Basis Named in Complaints with the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) FY 1998



Source: Complaint Demographics for FY 1998, Connecticut Human Rights and Opportunities

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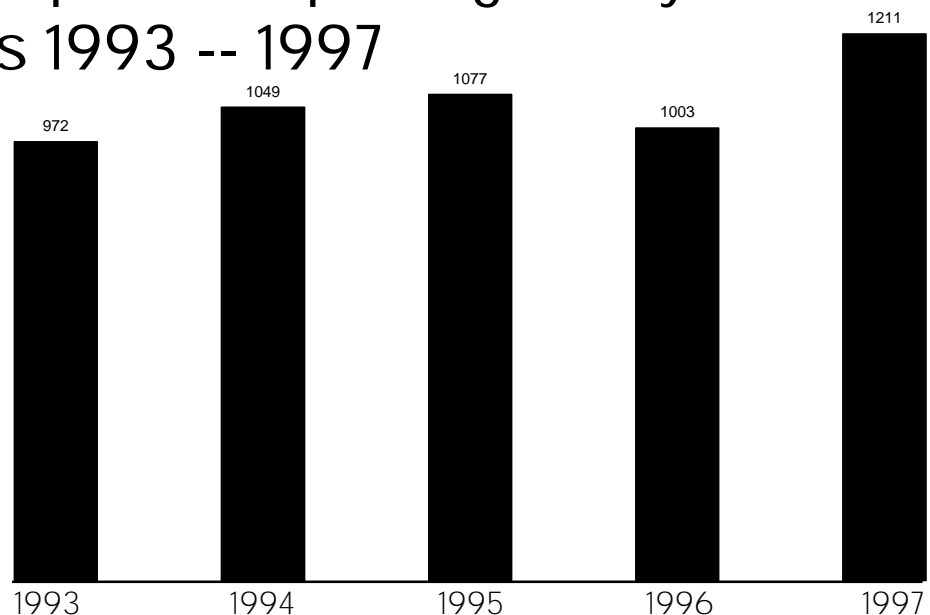
## Family & Medical Leave

The Family & Medical leave Act in Connecticut became effective on July 1, 1990. Since its inception 112,910 unpaid leaves have been taken for birth/adoption and medical purposes. The number of leaves peaked in 1995 with 18,518 leaves reported. The lowest number of leaves was 8,791 in 1992.<sup>1</sup> These figures are for both women and men. The CT Department of Labor does not gather these statistics by gender.

In 1997, the average medical leave was 6.7 weeks, average family leave 5.5 weeks, and the average birth/adoption leave was 9.7 weeks.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Annual Family & Medical Leave Experience Report, Calendar Year 1997, CT Department of Labor  
<sup>2</sup> *ibid.*

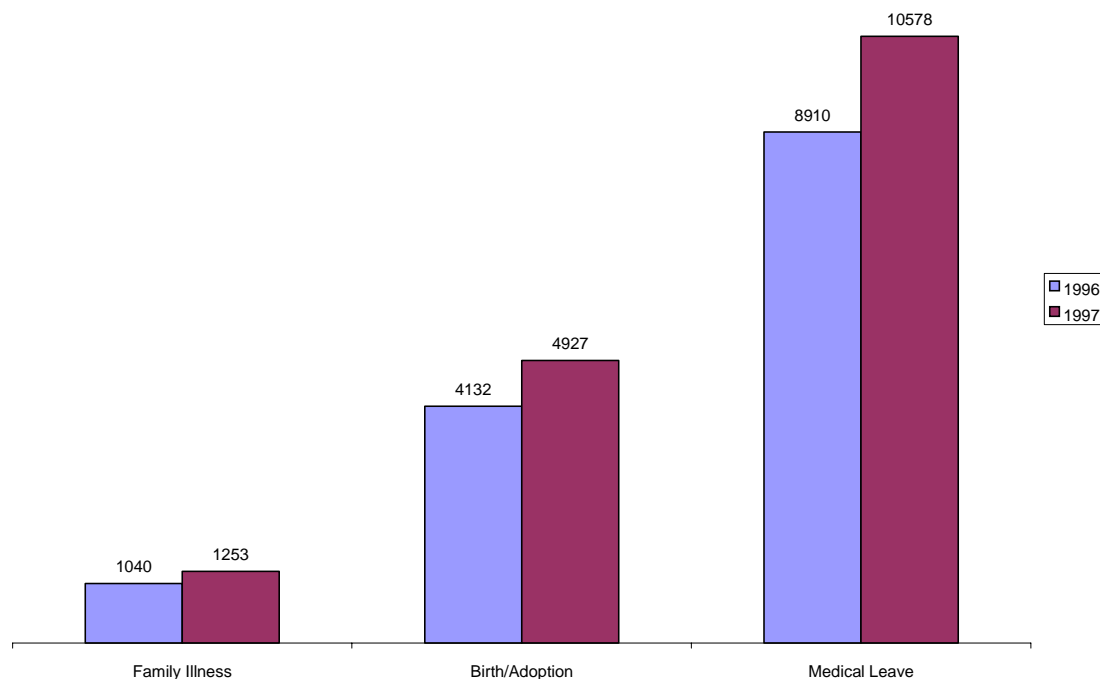
## CT Companies Reporting Family & Medical Leaves 1993 -- 1997



Source:  
Annual Family &  
Medical Leave  
Experience  
Report, CT  
Department of  
Labor, June  
1998

# FACTS about Connecticut Women

## Annual Family and Medical Leave by Reason 1996/97 Comparison



Source: Annual Family & Medical Leave Experience Report, CT Department of Labor, June 1998

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## Labor Force Participation

Sixty-five percent of all women in Connecticut are employed full-time and 28.9% are employed part-time.<sup>1</sup> Only 16% of part-time workers receive health insurance, compared to 61% of those working full-time and two-thirds of the women that work outside of the home do not have a pension plan. Women are less than half as likely as men to receive a pension, and those that do receive half as much.<sup>2</sup> Women in Connecticut have higher labor force participation in all age groups than their U.S. counterparts. The highest level of labor force participation occurs between the ages of 35 and 44, with 82% in the labor force.<sup>2</sup>

Women make up a growing share of the older labor force (55 years and over), rising from 23% in 1950 to 55% in 1993.<sup>4</sup>

Women are the traditional caregivers to the elderly and 64% of caregivers are working full or part time.<sup>5</sup>

*Note: Connecticut data regarding women age 65 and older in the workplace is not available.*

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1997, Tables 12 and 13.

<sup>2</sup> *Blueprint For Action*, Center for Policy Alternatives, 1999

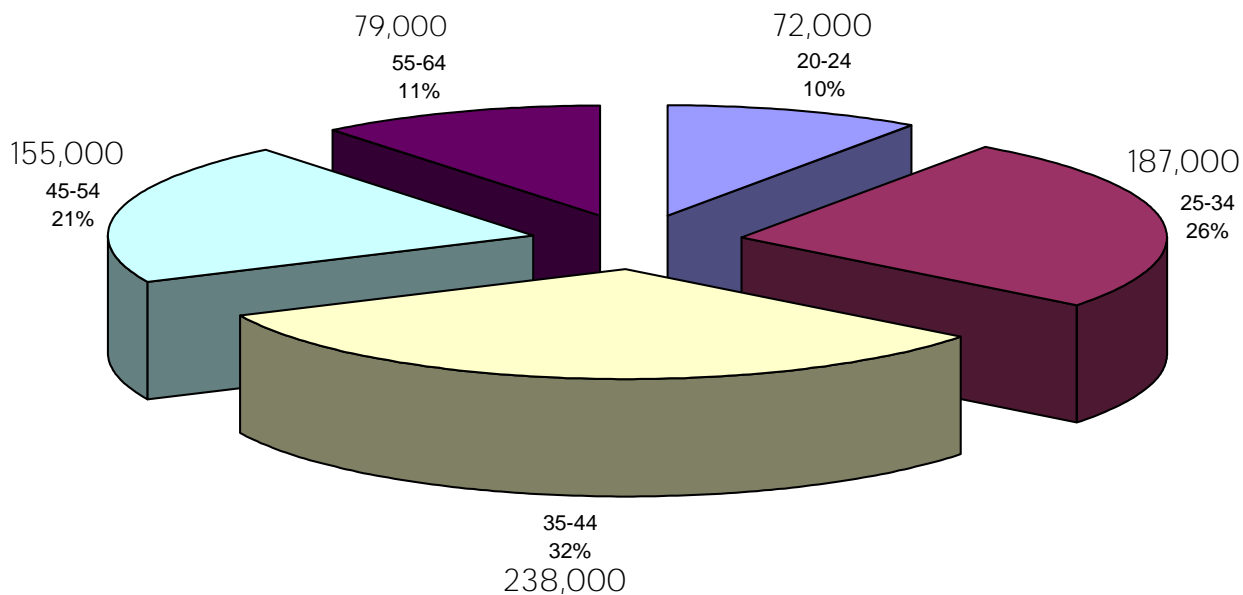
<sup>3</sup> The Status of Women in Connecticut, Institute of Women's Policy Research 1998b, Washington, D.C.

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Elderly population Predictions, 11/20/98

<sup>5</sup> Facts on Working Women, U.S. Department of Labor, Women's Bureau, May 1998

# FACTS about Connecticut Women

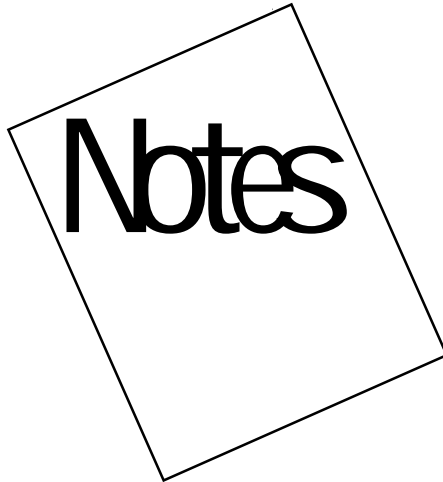
## Labor Force Participation of Women in CT Age 20--64 1995



Source: The Status of Women in Connecticut, Institute of Women's Policy Research 1998b, Washington, D.C.

womenandwork

# FACTS about Connecticut Women





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## Chapter Four

### Women and Higher Education

## chapter four

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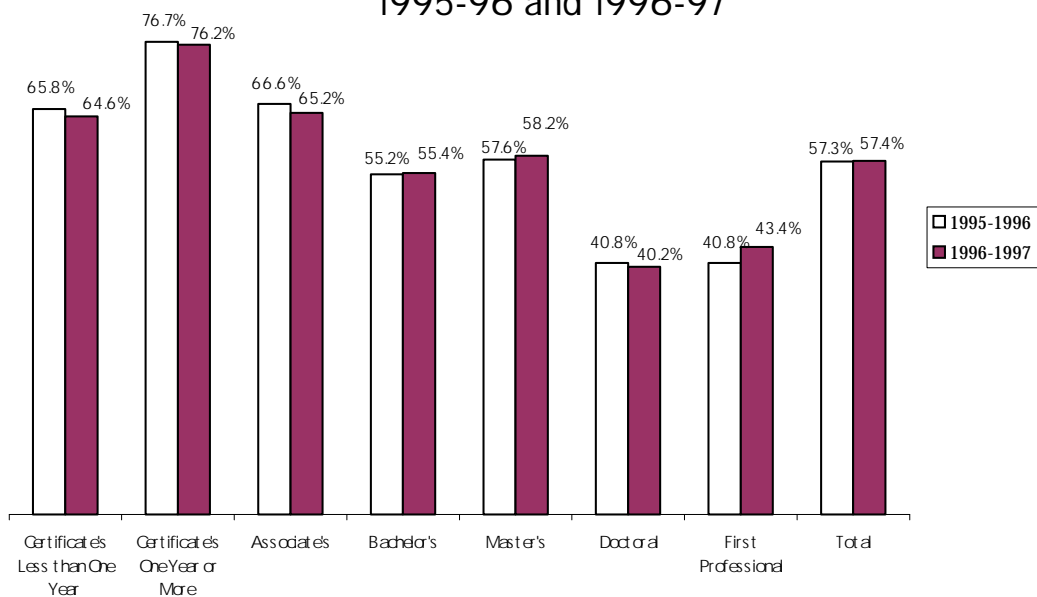
## Degrees Awarded To Women

Connecticut colleges and universities awarded a total of 28,859 degrees in 1996-97. Women received 57.4% of all degrees, slightly more than the year before. Women continue to be underrepresented in doctoral and first-professional degrees and overrepresented in Certificates and Associate degrees.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Degrees Conferred by Connecticut Institutions of Higher Education 1996-97, Report of the Board of Governors for Higher Education.

## Proportion of Degrees Conferred to Women by Level

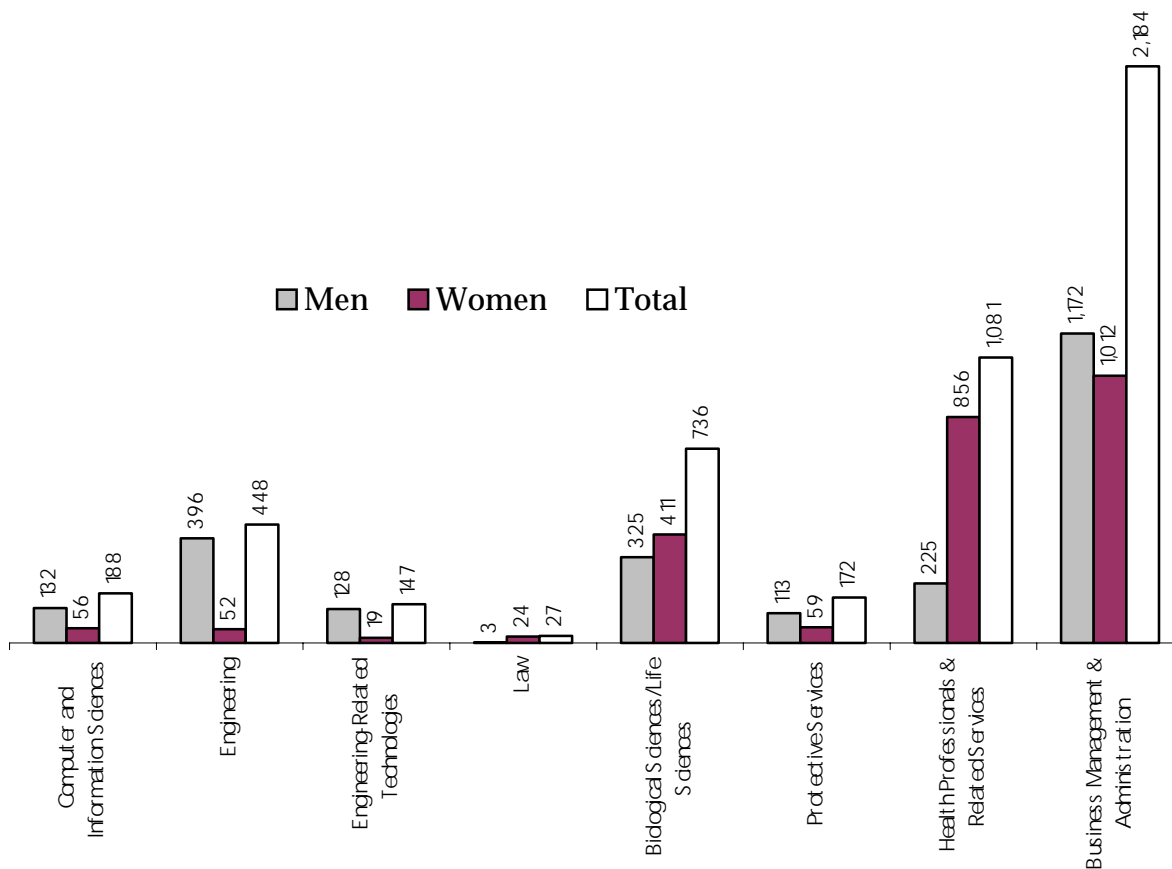
1995-96 and 1996-97



Source: Degrees Conferred by Connecticut Institutions of Higher Education 1996-97, Report of the Board of Governors for Higher Education.

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## Bachelor Degrees Conferred to Women and Men in Selected Disciplines 1996-97



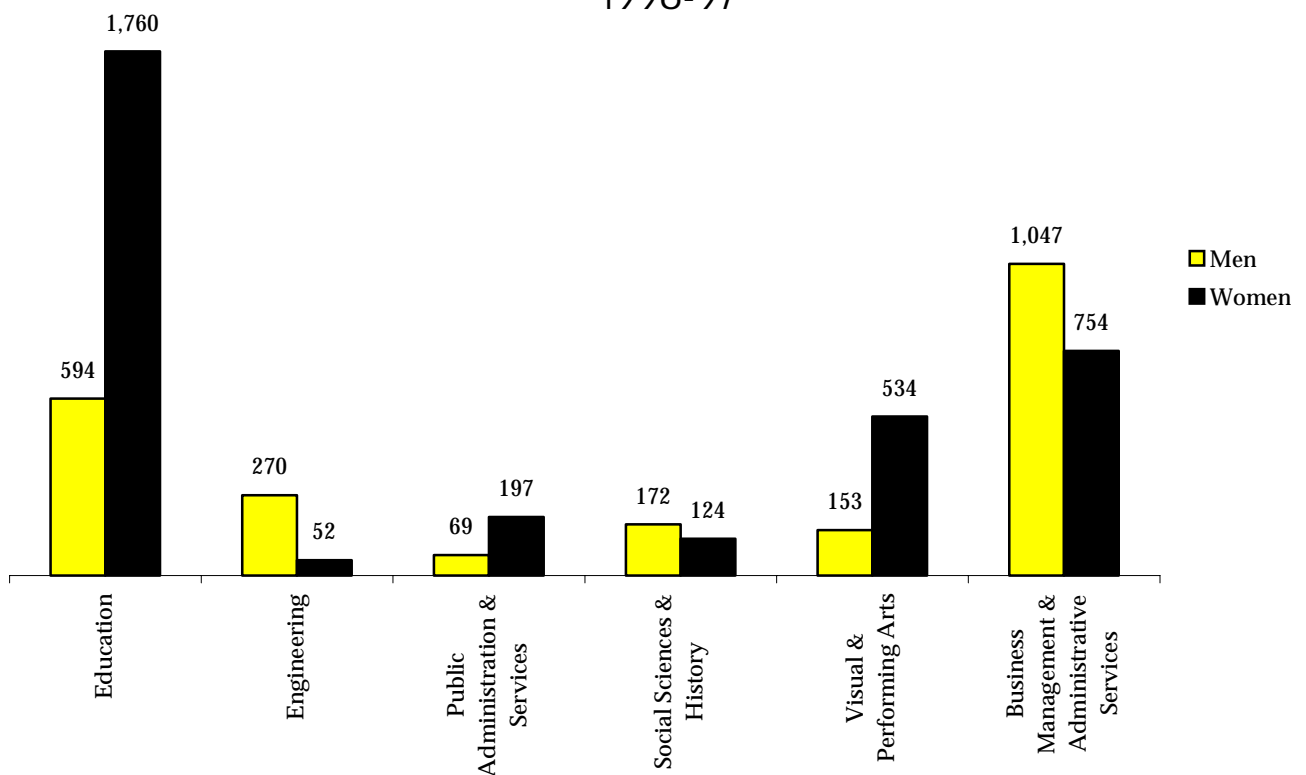
Source: Degrees Conferred by Connecticut Institutions of Higher Education 1996-97, Report of the Board of Governors for Higher Education.

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higher education

## Master Degrees Conferred to Women and Men in Selected Disciplines

1996-97

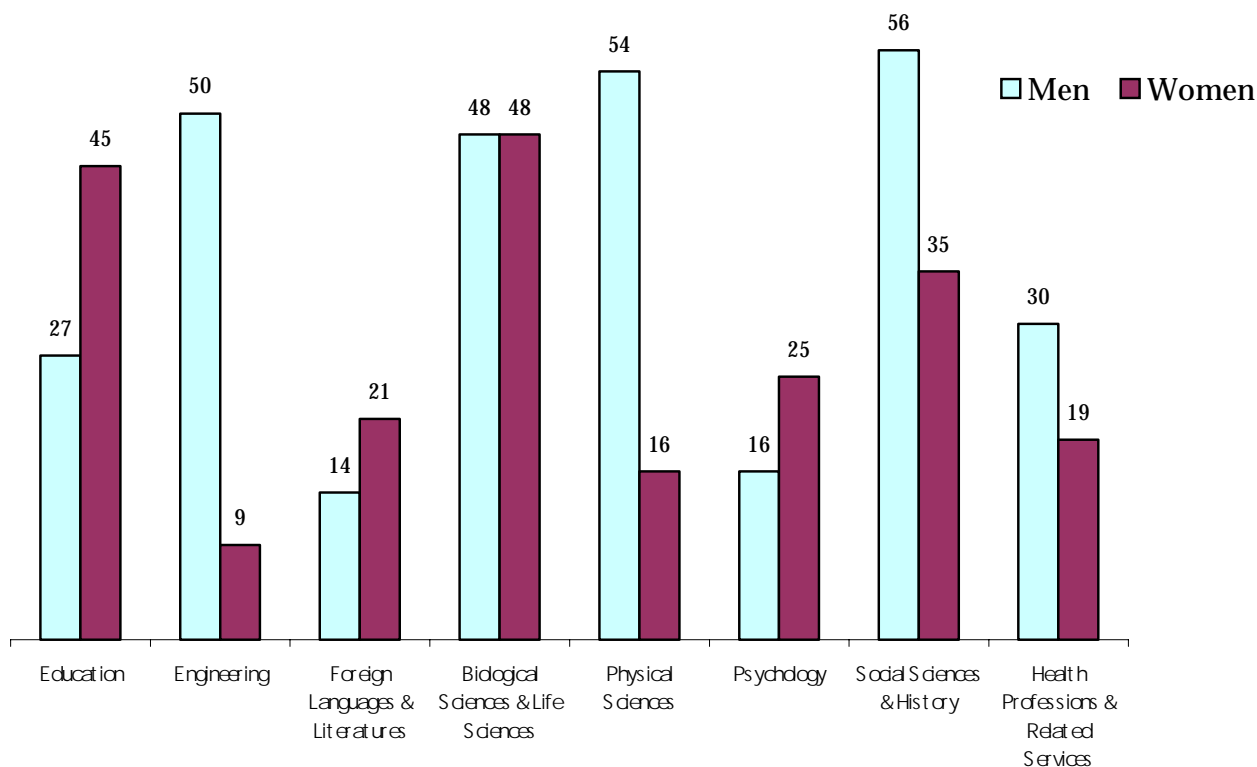


Source: Degrees Conferred by Connecticut Institutions of Higher Education 1996-97, Report of the Board of Governors for Higher Education.

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## Doctoral Degrees Conferred to Women and Men in Selected Disciplines 1996-97



Source: Degrees Conferred by Connecticut Institutions of Higher Education 1996-97, Report of the Board of Governors for Higher Education.

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# FACTS about Connecticut Women

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## Female/Male Earnings Ratio by Education

**A**lmost 24% of Connecticut's women have four or more years of college.<sup>1</sup> However, having a college education doesn't mean equal pay for women. In 1995, a woman with a four-year college degree earned the same wages as a man with only a high school education.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The Status of Women in Connecticut, Institute for Women's Policy Research, Wash. D.C., 1996

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Labor, Women's Bureau 1995

Female/Male Earnings Ratio for women and men working full-time year-round Connecticut data - 1995		
	female median annual earnings	female/male wage ratio
Less than 12th Grade	\$18,957	75.0%
High School Only	\$25,727	75.9%
Some College	\$29,837	67.5%
College	\$34,754	71.3%
College Plus	\$51,442	72.0%

Source: *The Status of Women in Connecticut*, Institute for Women's Policy Research, Washington, D.C. 1996

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## Chapter Five

### Violence Against Women

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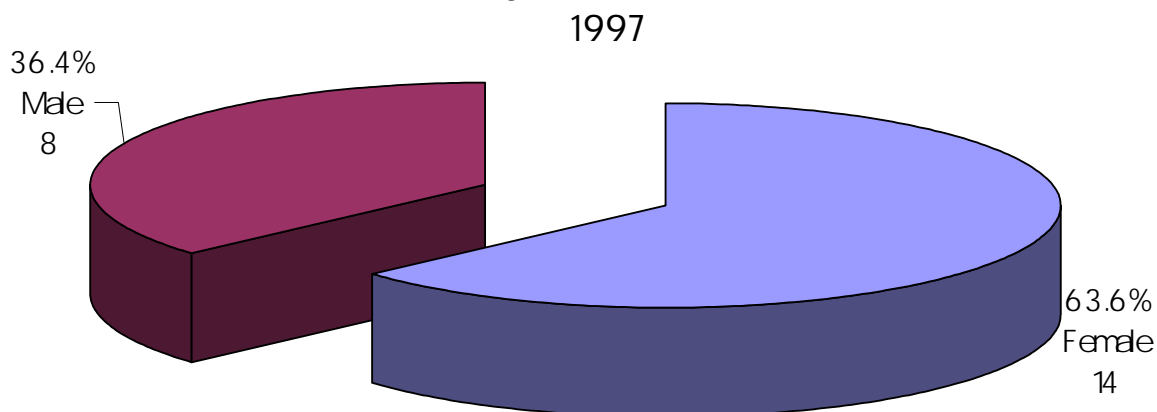
violence against women

## Family Violence Homicide

In 1997 in Connecticut there were 22 family violence homicides and the majority of the offenders in these homicides were men (65%). This number represents a 21.4% decrease from 1996. The majority of victims of family violence in 1997 were female (63.6%) and the age range of these females was age 2 to age 82. Seven of the homicides involved spouses, and seven involved unmarried people living together. Five of the victims were children killed by care-taking adults. Guns were used in 36.4% of the incidents with knives 31.8%, physical force 18.2% and asphyxiation 13.8%.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Family Violence Homicides, A Summary of 1997 Incidents, State of CT, Dept. of Public Safety

## Family Violence Homicide Victims by Gender



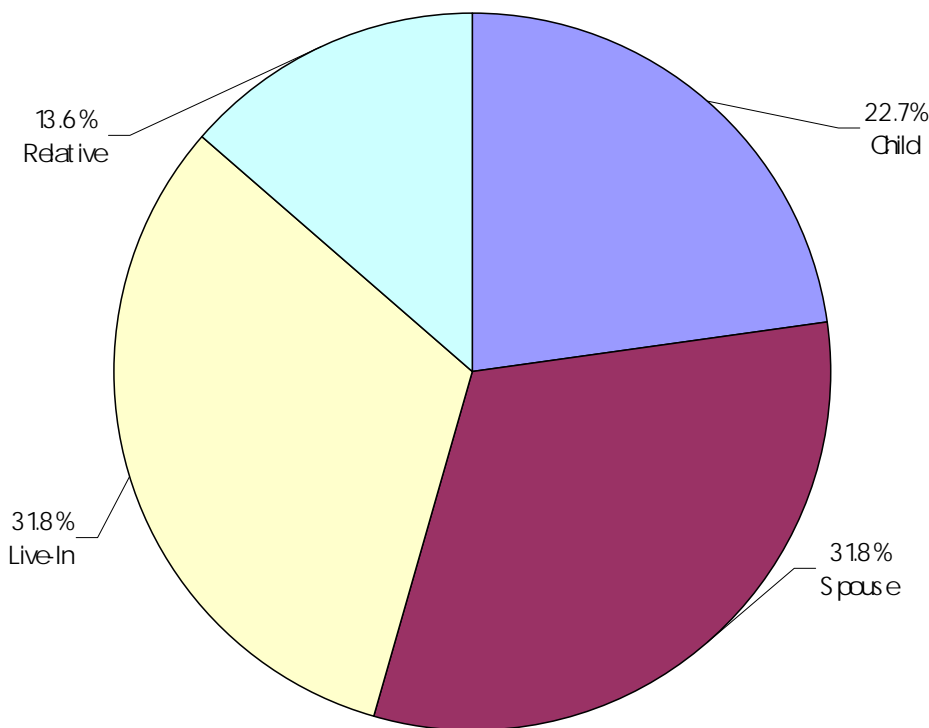
Source: Family Violence Homicides, A Summary of 1997 Incidents, State of CT, Dept. of Public Safety

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## Family Violence Homicide Relationship of Victim to Offender 1997



Source: Family Violence Homicides, A Summary of 1997 Incidents, State of CT, Dept. of Public Safety

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## Family Violence Dual Arrest

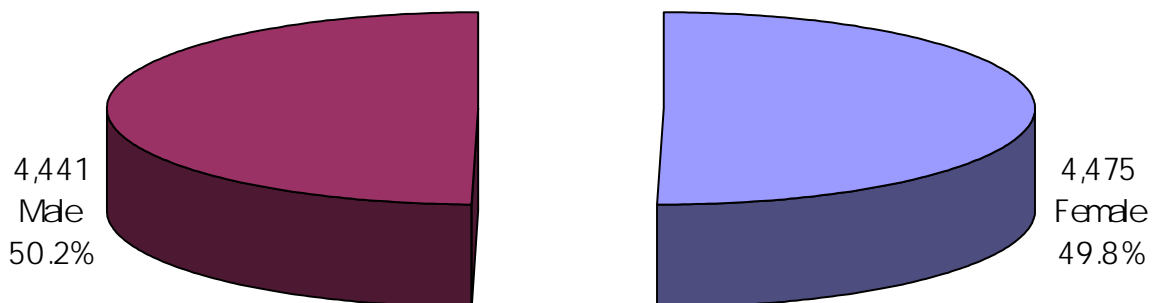
**P**olice in Connecticut make an arrest whenever they respond to a call that involves family violence and there is sufficient probable cause to make an arrest.<sup>1</sup> In order for an offense to be classified as family violence, there must be either injury or present danger with the likelihood that physical violence will occur, and the relationship between parties conforms to the definition of "family or household members."<sup>2</sup> This definition includes spouses, former spouses, parents and their children, persons 18 of age or older related by blood or marriage, persons 16 years of age or older who are presently residing together or who have resided together in the past, and person's who share a child in common regardless of their marital status or living arrangement.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Crime in Connecticut, Family Violence 1997, State of CT Dept. of Public Safety

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> Connecticut General Statutes 46b-38a(2).

## Dual Arrest in Family Violence Incidents 1997



Source: Crime in Connecticut, Family Violence 1997, State of CT Dept. of Public Safety

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## Domestic Violence Services

**D**omestic Violence is a crime involving a pattern of abusive behavior in intimate relationships where one partner tries to control and dominate the other. The behavior may be physically, sexually, psychologically, or verbally abusive, with the victim left feeling scared, confused, dependent and insecure.<sup>1</sup>

According to the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV), in the fiscal year 7/1/97 to 6/30/98, 18 domestic violence shelters in the state provided services to 42,023 victims of domestic violence.<sup>2</sup> Statewide hotline services came in contact with 23,285 victims in crisis. Emergency shelters saw 1,031 women and 11,348 children as residents. In addition, 16,828 adult victims and 1,267 child victims who did not need emergency shelter received support services such as individual counseling, support groups, community and legal advocacy, information and referral, and assistance with developing safety plans.<sup>3</sup>

Criminal court based services serviced 21,549 domestic violence victims with assistance with protective orders, counseling, court advocacy, information and referral to community services and assistance with developing safety plans.<sup>4</sup>

Community education services which include training for police officers and other professional groups, presentations to religious, civic and business organizations and domestic violence prevention programs to elementary through college-age students served 79,028 people statewide.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Domestic Violence Fact Sheet, *A Connecticut Perspective*, CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence 1/99

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

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## Sexual Assault

The Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services (CONNSACS) provided service to 3,615 primary victims of sexual assault and 1,761 family members, for a total of 5,376 persons. In 1997-98, 86% of all sexual assaults reported to CONNSACS' member programs were committed by someone known to the victim.<sup>1</sup> Rape, as defined in the Uniform Crime Reporting program, is the "carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will". Statistics include attempts to commit forcible rape; however, other sexual assaults on females, sexual assaults on males and other sex offenses are excluded. The reported rape rate for Connecticut in 1997 was 44 rapes for every 100,000 females, a 2% decrease from 1996.<sup>2</sup>

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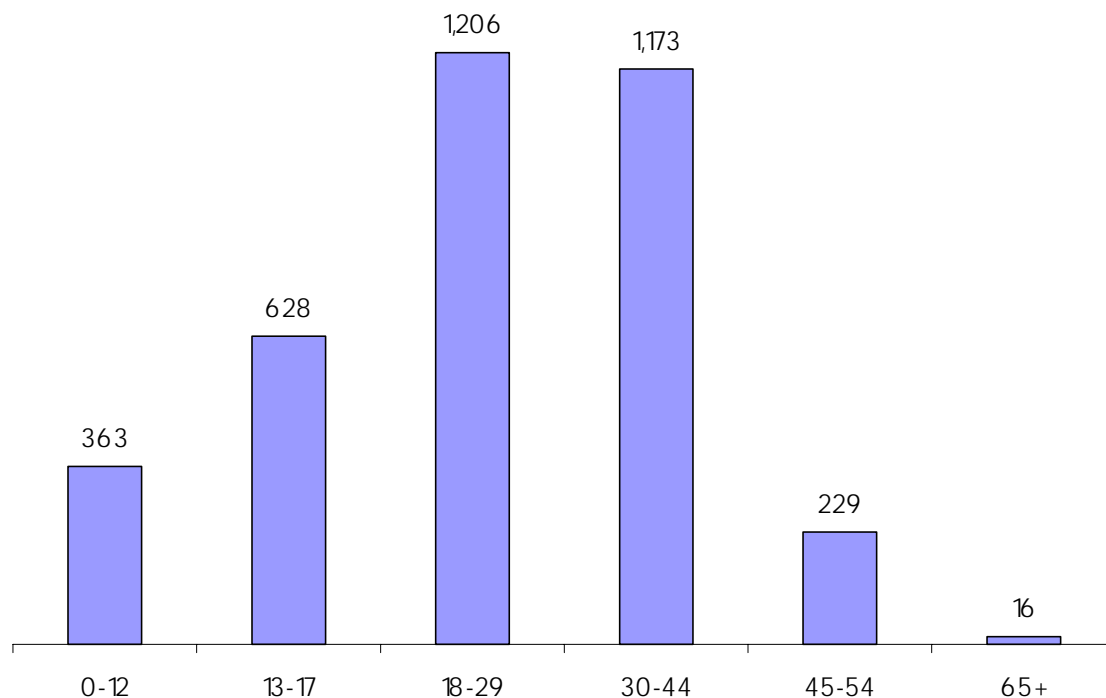
<sup>1</sup> Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc., 1997-98 Statistics

<sup>2</sup> Crime in Connecticut, Rape 1997, State of CT Dept. of Public Safety

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## Service Provided, by Age, To Sexual Assault Victims and Their Families in CT -- CONNSACS -- 1997-98

(Note: The numbers represent "units of service" as recorded by CONNSACS,  
e.g. crisis response, counseling session, support group meetings, etc.)

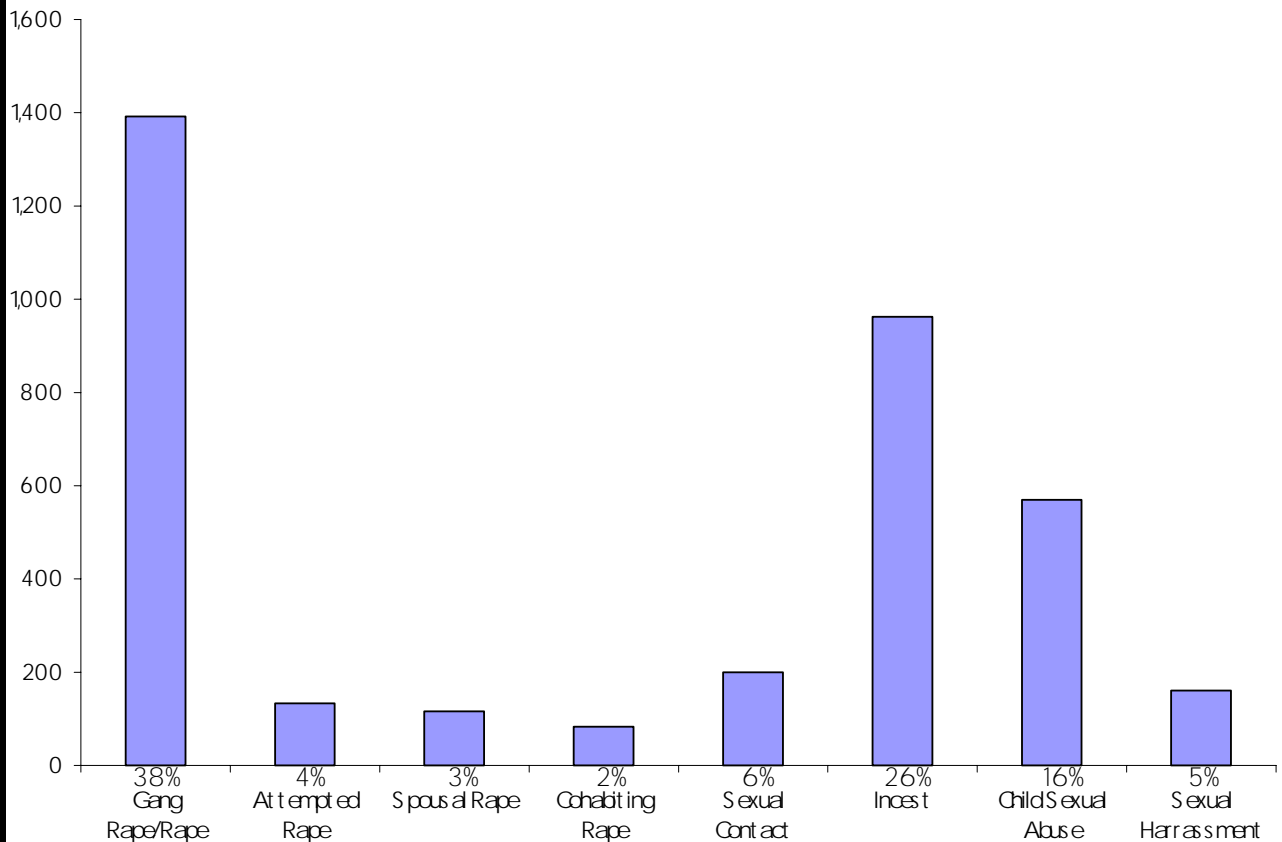


Source: Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc., 1997-98 Statistics

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## Type of Crime Reported by Victims and Their Families Receiving Services From CONNSACS -- 1997-98



Source: Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc. 1997-98 Statistics

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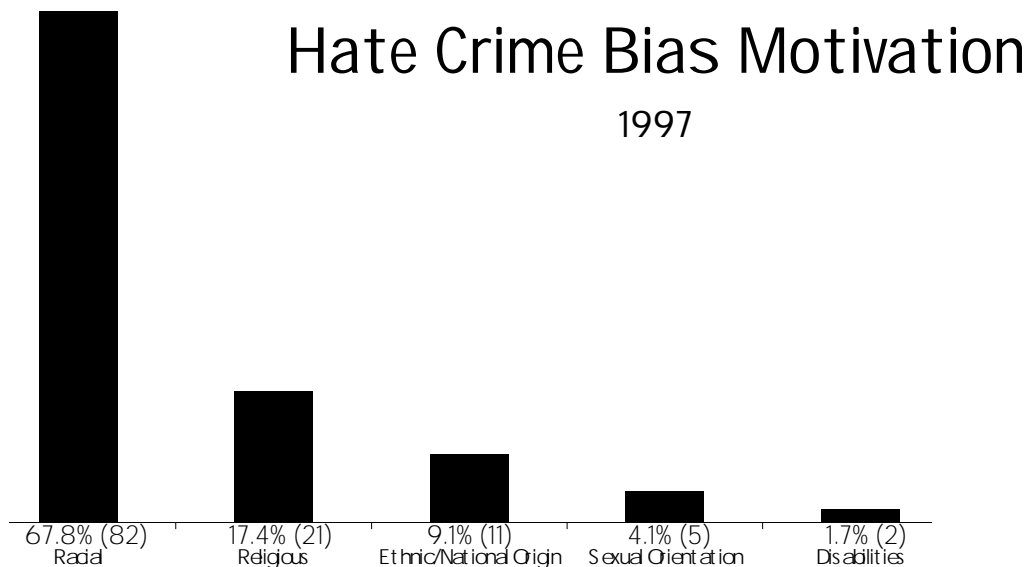
## Hate Crimes

The reported number of hate crimes in 1997 was 121, 15.4% lower than in 1996. Once again in 1997, hate crimes motivated by racial bias had the largest percentage of reports. The highest numbers of incidents were directed toward blacks, followed by anti-white incidents. Religious bias toward the Jewish community was third, followed by anti-multiracial bias, anti-Hispanic ethnic bias incidents, and sixth, anti-male homosexual incidents in the sexual orientation category. Hate crimes against disability included anti-physical disability.<sup>1</sup>

Hate crime offenses ranged from assault at 32.2%, criminal mischief at 28.1%, intimidation at 14.9%, breach of peace at 9.1%, threatening at 7.4% and disorderly conduct at 3.3%.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Crime in Connecticut, Hate Crime 1997, State of CT Dept. of Public Safety

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*



Source: Crime in Connecticut, Family Violence 1997, State of CT Dept. of Public Safety

# FACTS about Connecticut Women

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## Elder Abuse

**A**lthough other forms of violence within the family have received increasing attention from professionals and the media over recent years, elder abuse remains relatively hidden. This is especially true of sexual abuse of older persons.<sup>1</sup>

In the first study of its kind, Holly Ramsey-Klawnsnik, Ph.D, in 1991 examined 28 Massachusetts cases in which sexual abuse was identified by elder abuse case-workers. All victims resided in the community rather than in residential nursing homes or other institutional facilities. All were female ranging in age from 65 to 101. The offenders were usually relatives of the victim. In 39% of the cases, an adult son was the abuser; in 29% it was the victim's husband. The most frequent form of abuse suffered by the victim in the study was repeated vaginal rape.<sup>2</sup>

In a similar study in Great Britain in 1992, 90 elder sexual abuse cases were identified by professionals. Of those, 86% were women, and 14% were men. Almost all the victims of both sexes were over 85 years old and functioning at a poor or very poor level, rendering them totally dependent on others for care. Ninety-eight percent of the abusers of both sexes were male.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Older Women: Hidden Sexual Abuse Victims, Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Winter 1994

<sup>2</sup> Ramsey-Klawnsnik, Holly, Ph.D "Elder Abuse: Preliminary Findings." Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect. Vol. 3(3), 1991

<sup>3</sup> Holt, Malcolm G., CSS. "Elder Sexual Abuse in Britain: preliminary Findings." Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect. Vol. 5(2) 1993



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## Chapter Six

## Women and Health

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# FACTS about Connecticut Women

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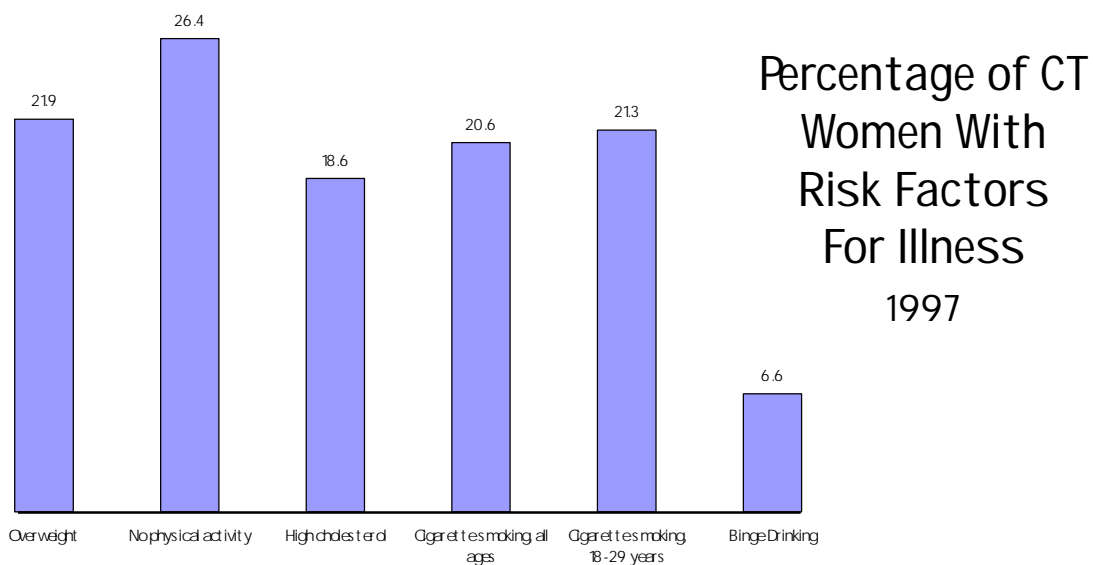
### Risk Factors For Illness

Cigarette smoking accounts for an estimated 87% of all lung cancer deaths, 82% of deaths from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and 21% of all deaths due to coronary disease.<sup>1</sup> In Connecticut 21.9% of the female population are cigarette smokers and more teenage girls smoke than teenage boys.<sup>2</sup> The average annual years of potential life lost due to smoking is 12.9 years.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Women's Health in CT, Data Indicators 1998, CT Women's Health Care Forum, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield of CT

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>3</sup> CDC's Tobacco Info--State & National Tobacco Control Highlights for CT 1990-1994



Source: State Profiles on Women's health, Jacobs Institute of Women's Health 1997

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# FACTS about Connecticut Women

## Breast and Cervical Cancer

The Connecticut Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program is administered by the state Department of Public Health. Women who are at or below 200% of poverty and who are uninsured or underinsured are eligible for free mammograms, if they are 40 years old or older or at risk for cancer, and free Pap tests if they are age 19 or older and meet the eligibility criteria.

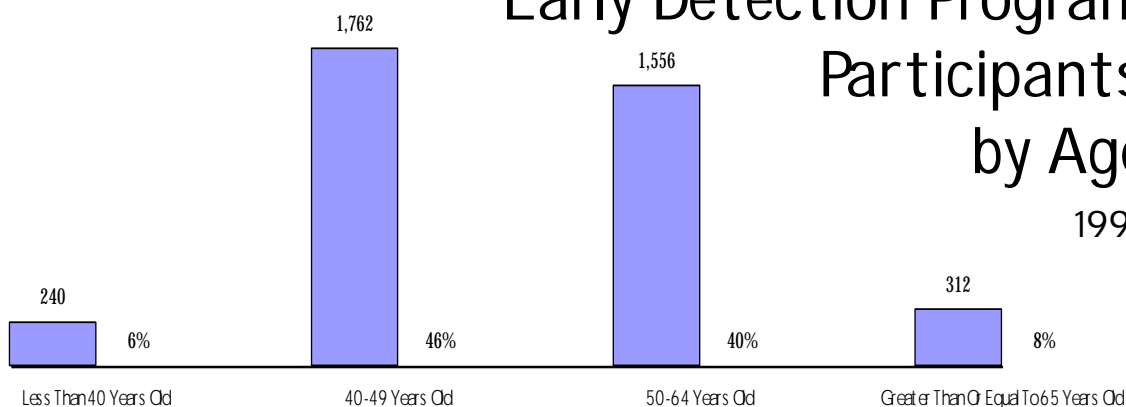
In the 1997 calendar year, 3,870 clients enrolled in the program.<sup>1</sup> The number of women receiving mammograms numbered 2,730; the number receiving pap tests, 2,009.<sup>2</sup> The majority of the women receiving the tests were in the \$10,001 to \$20,000 income level (1,596) with the second highest in the \$1 - \$10,000 income level (1,231). Seventeen percent of the women receiving tests reported no income.<sup>3</sup> The following chart shows the age groups of women who have received these free tests.

<sup>1</sup> CT Breast & Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program Summary Statistics, Jan. 1, 1997-Dec. 31, 1997, CT Dept. of Public Health

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*

CT Breast & Cervical Cancer  
Early Detection Program  
Participants  
by Age  
1997



Source: CT Breast & Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program Summary Statistics, Jan. 1, 1997-Dec. 31, 1997

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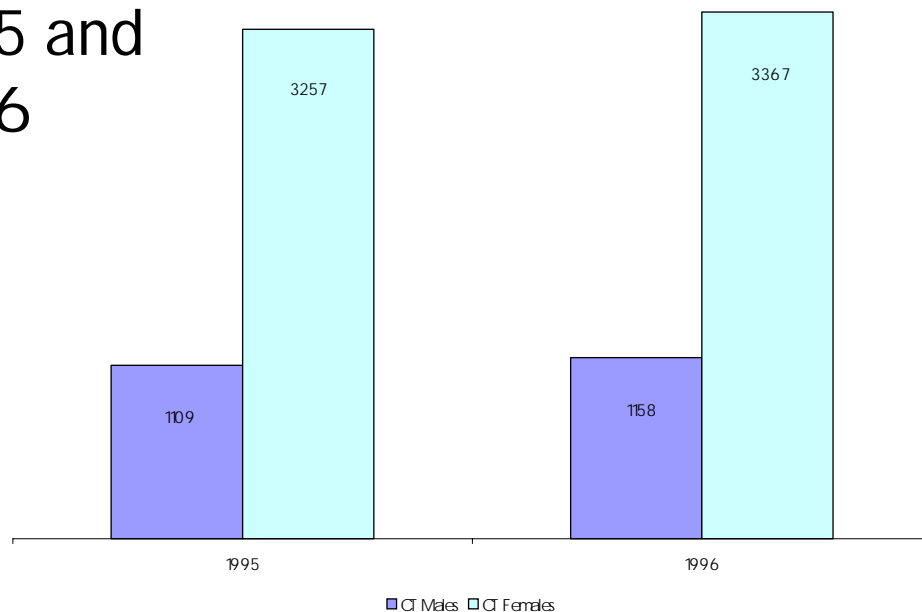
## Hip Fractures

Osteoporosis, an age-related debilitating disorder characterized by a decrease in bone mass, is a significant cause of bone fractures in postmenopausal women.<sup>1</sup> It can often be prevented by exercise, adequate calcium consumption, and hormone replacement therapy. Compared to their peers who have not fractured their hip(s), women who have fractured a hip have a 25% higher mortality rate in the first year after their hip fracture.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Connecticut Health Information Management Exchange Database FY 1997 as reported in Women's Health in Connecticut Data Indicators 1998, CT Women's Health Care Forum, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield of CT

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*

## Number of Hip Fractures by Gender in CT 1995 and 1996



Source: State Profiles on Women's health, Jacobs Institute of Women's Health 1997

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## Births

The number of live births to Connecticut women in 1996 was 44,455. Of the total births, 22,728 (51.1%) were male and 21,727 (48.9%) were female.<sup>1</sup> Teenagers accounted for 3,655 births or 8.2%, down from 8.6% in 1995. This marked the first percentage decrease in births to teens since 1992. However, there is an upward trend to giving birth at higher ages. In 1996, 1,203 (2.7% of total births, up from 2.3%) were to women age 40 and over.<sup>2</sup> Higher percentages of low birthweight babies were found among mothers under age 20 and over age 45 and the highest percentages of premature babies were born to mothers in the same age group.<sup>3</sup>

Of the 8 towns with 1,000 or more births, 6 exceeded the state percentage (8.2%) of births to teens. They were: Hartford, 23.7% (still the highest in the state); Bridgeport, 18.2%; New Britain, 18.7%; New Haven, 19.1%; Waterbury, 14.4%; and Danbury, 9.4%. These 6 towns accounted for half (49.9%) of all births to teenage mothers.<sup>4</sup>

Among the towns with 200 to 999 births, six towns--Killingly, Meriden, New London, Norwich, West Haven, and Windham had significantly higher percentages than the state.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 149th Registration Report for 1996, CT Dept. of Public Health

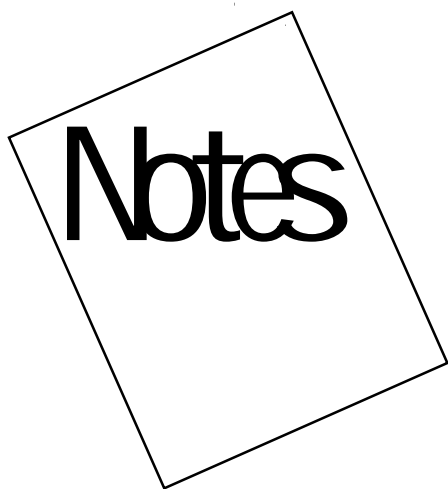
<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid*

# FACTS about Connecticut Women



# FACTS about Connecticut Women

## Chapter Seven

### Women-Owned Businesses

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# FACTS about Connecticut Women

## women-owned businesses

### Women-Owned Businesses in CT

**A**s of 1996, there are nearly 104,000 women-owned businesses in Connecticut employing more than 250,000 people and generating over \$38 billion in sales. Approximately 24,000 of these businesses are micro-enterprise with sole proprietorship. The majority of Connecticut's women-owned business firms are in the service and retail trade business.<sup>1</sup>

In Connecticut, 31.5% of women business owners declare their business is their primary employment.<sup>2</sup>

Despite their advances, women-owned businesses continue to face challenges. Although they are more likely to remain in business longer than the average U.S. firm (nearly three-quarters of women-owned firms that were functioning in 1991 were still in business 3 years later, compared to two-thirds of all U.S. firms), women business owners still report difficulties in working with their financial institutions and accessing governmental contracts.<sup>3</sup> For example approximately only 4.5% of the state's set-aside purchasing opportunities for goods and services are awarded to women-owned businesses (up from 3.14% in FY 95/96).<sup>4</sup>

For state contracts under \$10,000 where there is no advertisement requirement, the award goes to the lowest bidder of at least three businesses solicited. The businesses chosen to bid are at the discretion of the agency's purchasing agent.

It is estimated that nationally, 3.5% of all franchises are women-owned.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Women Owned Business in the U.S.: A Fact Sheet of the National Association of Women Business Owners using Bureau of the Census data

<sup>2</sup> Office of Advocacy, U.S. Small Business Administration, based upon data published by the U. S. Department of Commerce 1992

<sup>3</sup> Women Owned Business in the U.S.: A Fact Sheet of the National Association of Women Business Owners using Bureau of the Census data

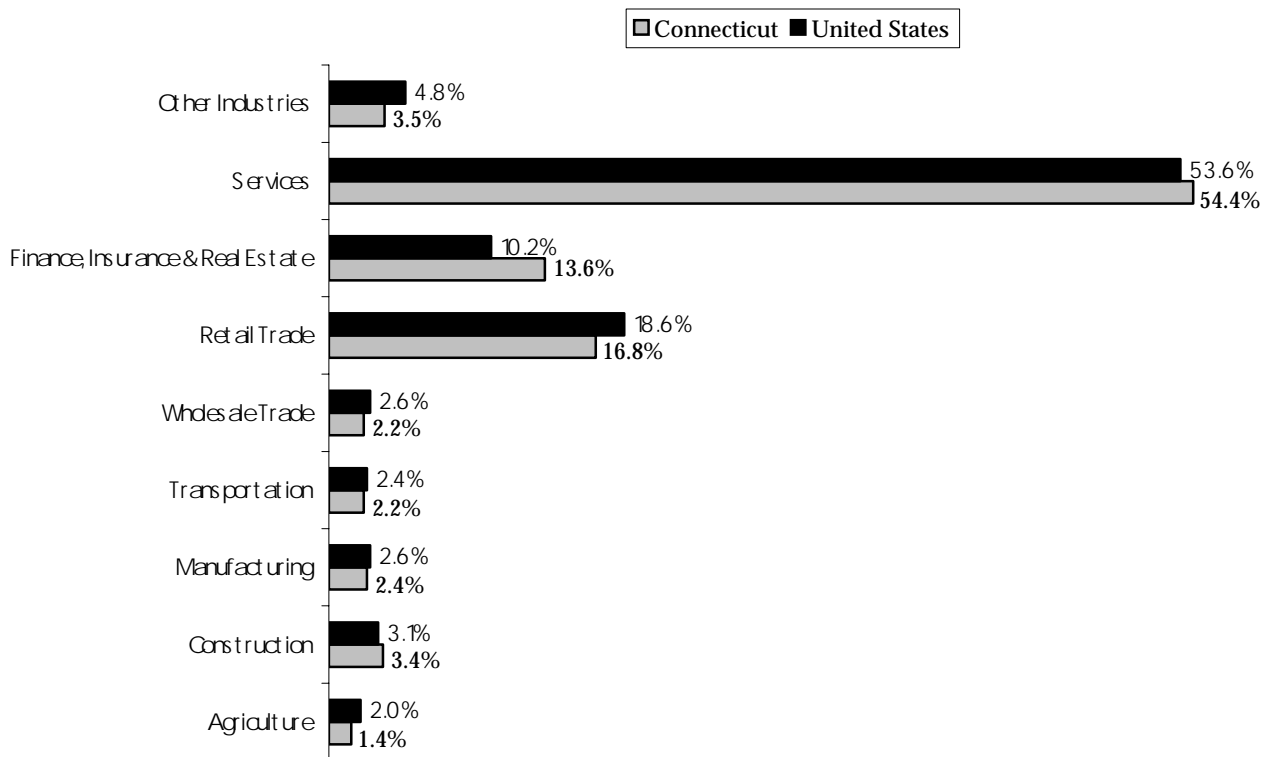
<sup>4</sup> Annual Report to the State Legislature on Minority and Women Business Enterprises in State Contracting, CT Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, FY 1996/97

<sup>5</sup> *The Characteristics of Business Owners*, U.S. Census Bureau 1992



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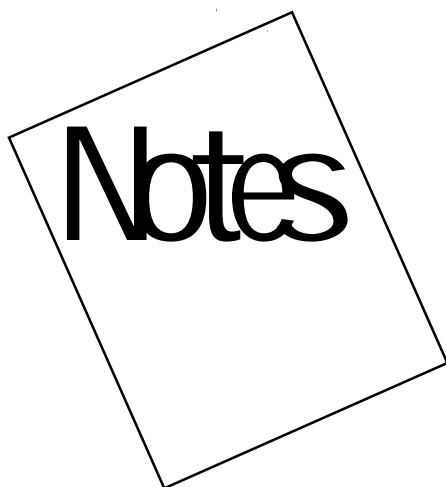
## Distribution of Women-Owned Firms Across Industries in CT and the United States - 1996



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of The Census

women-owned businesses

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## Chapter Eight

### Political Participation

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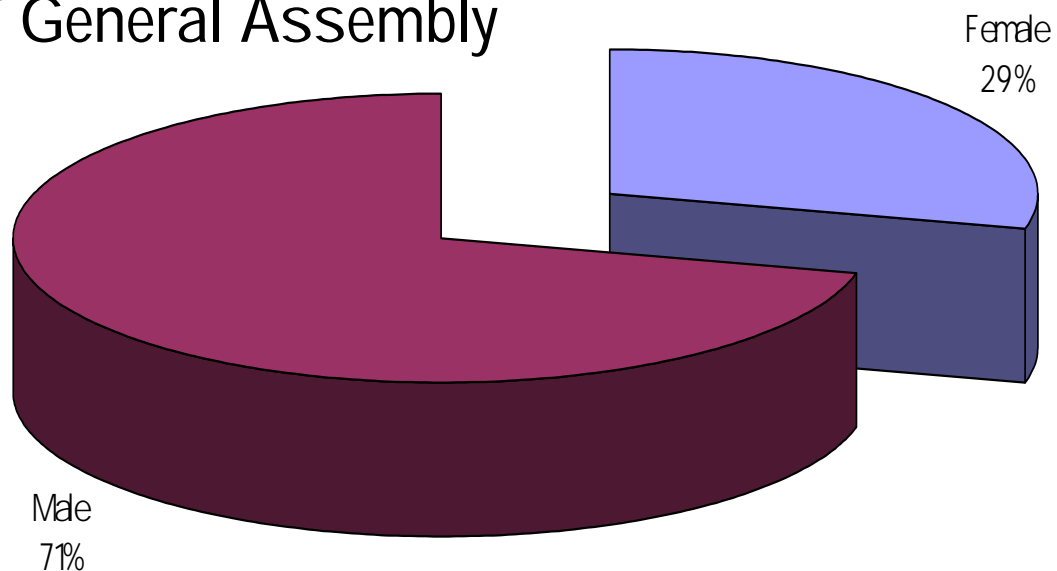
## The CT State Government

For the first time in Connecticut's history, women hold a majority of state-wide constitutional offices, 4 out of 6, or 67%. The offices held by women are: Lt. Governor, Secretary of the State, Comptroller and Treasurer.

Women make up 29% of the 1999/2000 Connecticut State Legislature (the same percentage as 1997/98). They are 25% of the State Senate and 30% of the House of Representatives. In the Senate women are 9 of the 36 members, and 45 out of the 151 in the House of Representatives.

The Connecticut state legislature elected its first woman Speaker of the House of Representatives, Moira K. Lyons of Stamford. Only nine other states currently have an elected female Speaker of the House. The first woman Speaker elected was in 1933 in North Dakota.

## Gender Composition of the 1999-2000 CT General Assembly

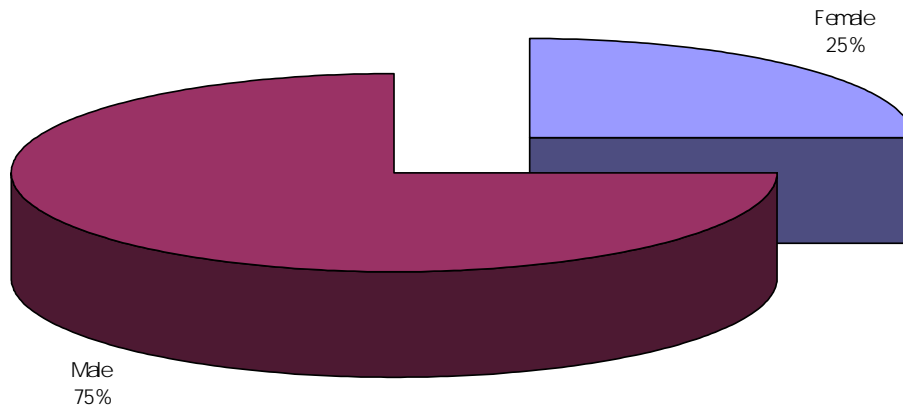


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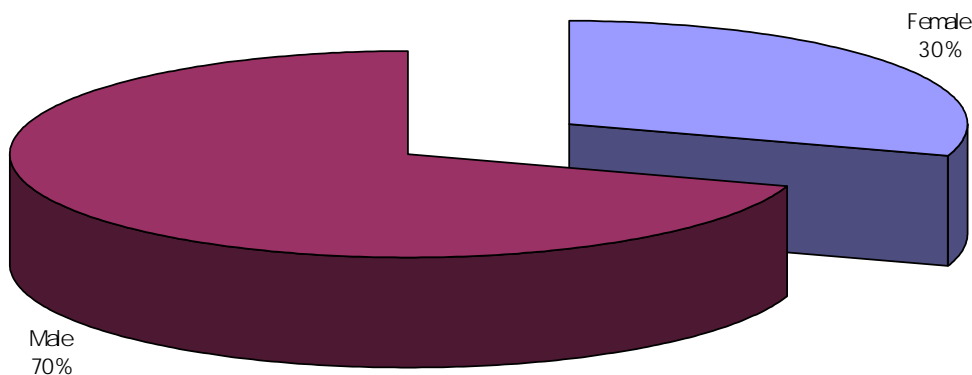
Source: CT Permanent Commission on the Status of Women 1/99

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## Gender Composition of the 1999-2000 CT State Senate



## Gender Composition of the 1999-2000 CT House of Representatives



Source: CT Permanent Commission on the Status of Women 1/99

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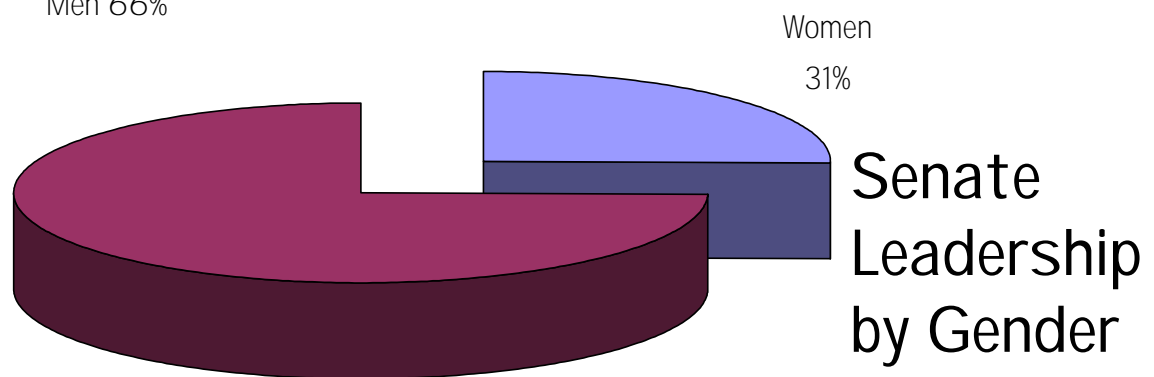
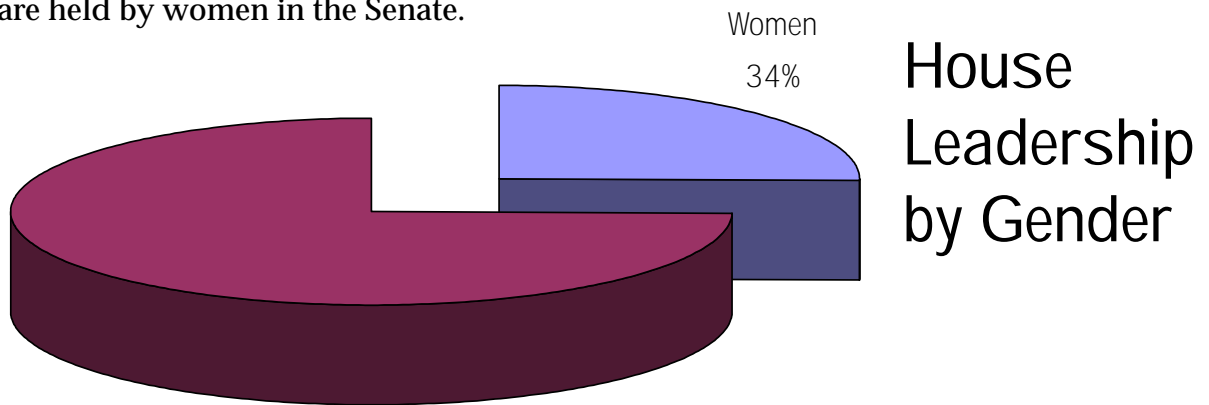
political participation

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political participation

## Women In Leadership 1999-2000 CT State Legislature

In the 1999/2000 state legislature, women hold a historically high percentage of leadership positions. The General Assembly provides 24 joint House and Senate committees. Each committee has a Senate Chair, Senate Vice-Chair, House Chair and appointed Vice-Chair appointed by the majority party and a Senate and House Ranking Member, appointed by the minority party. In total, therefore, the Senate and House each have 62 Committee leadership positions. For 1999/2000, 34% of these positions are held by women in the House, and 31% are held by women in the Senate.



Source: CT Permanent Commission on the Status of Women 1/99